CDXC CHILTERN DX CLUB The UK DX Foundation

Newsletter

January 1996 CDXC - The UK DX Foundation Issue 99

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: FEBRUARY 7th (LATE NEWS 21st)

CHILTERN DX CLUB - *The UK DX Foundation* - Aims and Objectives

From the Constitution: ***"The aim of the Club will be to promote excellence in HF operating, particularly DXing, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate"***

From the Prospectus: ***"CDXC caters for amateurs with an interest in competitive activity on the HF bands (DXing, contesting, award chasing, etc.)"***

Membership: Membership of CDXC is open to any amateur or SWL who has 100 DXCC countries confirmed on the HF bands. New members must be proposed by at least two club members.

Subscriptions: The annual subscription is currently set at £12.00 for UK members, and £17.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above).

Newsletter: This newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee.*

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EDITORIAL

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

Firstly, may I wish all CDXC members a happy, healthy, and hopefully prosperous, 1996. May 1996 bring you those missing countries, band/mode slots, and the start of a new sun spot cycle!

Secondly, I owe Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH, an apology. Due to a typo in the November issue, I wrongly reported Phil as having reached 100 DXCC countries worked with his 100w to wire antennas. That should have been 300 countries, of course! No doubt Phil has had his leg pulled a few times over that one! Sorry, Phil. I did actually spot that on my final proof read, and corrected it, but the gremlins must have got to it and the page didn't get re-printed.

Well, we certainly seem to have managed to stir up some correspondence for this issue. With eight pages of letters on what constitutes a QSO, and what the CDXC entry criteria should be, we seem to have hit the jackpot! Whilst there is a lot of correspondence on the subject of entry criteria, it all seems to be saying that the existing criteria are more or less correct, which is gratifying for the Committee. I'd like to re-assure Anthony Quest, G4UZN, that moving from 100 countries confirmed to 100 countries worked/heard as an entry requirement does not mean that club policy is to be that QSL cards are no longer of importance. What we are looking for in the entry criteria is that the potential new members is interested in DXing. The new change recognises that some DXers simply are not interested in QSLing - the Committee doesn't think this should exclude them from CDXC. There are a number of well known DXers with over 300 countries worked who are not QSL collectors. It is, however, recognised that QSL cards remain necessary for other purposes.

An interesting point coming out of the debate on what constitutes a QSO concerns QSLing. On receipt of a QSL, should a QSL Manager only reply to it if *all* the details are correct? As QSL Manager of GB1OTA, if a call on an incoming QSL card cannot be found in the log, I always look for calls which are close, and often find one which matches the other details on the card - I will then send a QSL in response and correct the log. It is interesting that a significant number

of errors of this sort are found in matching incoming GB1OTA cards to calls in the log - the highest percentage of errors are in those logs for operators with large QSO totals, and of those, the CW logs seem to have more mistakes than the SSB ones (a fact which I find surprising) - more haste less speed should be the motto here, I guess! For GB301OTA and M1OOG all QSOs as recorded in the log will be QSL'd. If the same sort of errors exist in these logs, which they undoubtedly will, cards will go to callsigns which didn't make a QSO! Does this mean that operations should not adopt a policy of 100% QSLing? If this is taken to its logical conclusion, no QSL should be sent until it is certain that the call in the log at both ends is correct - how do you do that without exchanging QSLs?! As always in these situations, it is the spirit of good practice that should be observed. If there is clearly no attempt to cheat, then my personal view is that a QSL Manager *should* reply to cards where the call was logged slightly incorrectly, which is the practice that I have adopted for GB1OTA.

I'm sure you will all be pleased to hear that CDXC member John Forward, G3HTA was confirmed as the new RSGB HF Manager at an RSGB Council meeting held on November 11th. Congratulations, John - you have our best wishes for every success in this important role.

I am also delighted to report that Bill Moorwood G3CAQ has accepted the role of CDXC Awards Manager, a position which has been vacant since the ARM. Welcome on board Bill, and again, our best wishes for every success.

This issue is slightly smaller than the most recent issues of the Newsletter. Apart from the regular contributions, there are less than the usual number of articles this time. For a change we have a few articles of a technical/practical nature. May I remind all members that the success and quality of the Newsletter depends heavily on contributions from members. The next issue will be issue #100 - I will try to produce something special, but can't do that without your help. Please do what you can and send in something - however small. Details of formats etc. can be found at the end of this issue. I will try to have Issue 100 ready in time for distribution at the CDXC Annual Dinner on March 2nd, and it will be mailed during the following week to those not attending the Dinner. I do hope we will get a good turn out at the Dinner; it promises to be a good evening for all. I hope to see many of you there. See enclosed flyer for full information.

In his *Advance Contest Information*, Ken Chandler, G0ORH makes a plea for more G stations to enter the Commonwealth Contest. This is one of the premier RSGB HF contests of the year. Unfortunately, it always clashes with Picketts Lock, which is the biggest Amateur Radio show of the year. As a trader, Picketts Lock is by far and away my biggest sales opportunity of the year, so much as I would love to enter the Commonwealth Contest, I never will whilst this clash is there. I see many CDXC Members at Picketts Lock, so I guess the same applies to them. Maybe the HFCC and the organisers of Picketts Lock could liaise in future to avoid what seems to be an unnecessary clash of two major events?

Soon after you receive this issue, the Dateline DX Association 1996 operation from *Wake Island (KH9)* will be in full swing. The four man team includes CDXC member Lloyd Westbrook, K4HQI. They have promised a big push for Europe, and G stations in particular - full details can be found on page 33. The Dateline DX Association 1997 operation will take place from *Midway Island (KH4)*. See you in the pile-ups!

Finally, my thanks, as always, go to the contributors, plus QST, G3KWK, G3NUG, and G3XMZ. Good DXing in 1996!

Alan, G3PMR

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT
Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

I am very pleased to announce that Bill Moorwood G3CAQ has kindly agreed to become our Awards Manager. Bill has been fully briefed so if any Member has any queries about our awards programme he or she should get in touch with Bill. His address is on the front cover of this Newsletter. Applications for the Penallt Trophy should be sent to Bill.

At our last meeting the Committee agreed to formally thank Bren McCartney G4DYO for acting as Sponsor of our Honour Roll Chasers Awards. This programme is running very smoothly and the certificates are extremely attractive and highly recommended. Thank you Bren.

Bren is also working with the Committee on the redesign of our Prospectus and we are again most grateful for his support. We plan to circulate a copy of the new Prospectus to all Members with the March Newsletter. As part of our 1996 marketing campaign we want to encourage existing Members to seek out new Members and the new Prospectus should help this effort.

I am sure we have all been reading with interest the correspondence regarding Membership numbers and our growth programme. Let me set out the situation as your Committee sees it.

We have defined a number of objectives -- these were set out in some detail in my Chairman's Chat in the September 1995 Newsletter and can be summarised as follows:

1. To fund DXpeditions,
2. To encourage and support the younger and newer amateurs,
3. To publish an excellent bi-monthly Newsletter,
4. To create an environment where Members can meet,
5. To issue achievement awards,
6. To keep the Club on a sound financial and well administered basis.

We have not sensed that Members disagree with these objectives; indeed many seem to positively support them. They are fundamental to the way we are trying to run CDXC and they do form the basis of our new Prospectus.

So how are we going to achieve these objectives? It should be noted that two of the objectives in particular require a good deal of cash namely, funding DXpeditions, (where there is an ever increasing demand for support) and publishing and distributing the Newsletter. Our main source of cash is of course Membership income.

If our Membership remains static, we are then faced with two choices. We can either:
1. Reduce costs, or
2. Increase Membership fees.

Reduce costs -- By far our largest cost is the printing and distribution of the Newsletter. The present bi-monthly Newsletter, typically 64/68 pages, seems to have a great deal of support and generates much favourable comment. Last year we changed our printing arrangements and made very significant cost savings. We do not believe that further cost reductions can be achieved. So our only option is to reduce the size of the Newsletter -- Is this really something Members want to do? We doubt it but let's have your views. The remaining costs of running the Club are very small.

An alternative strategy would be *to increase our membership fee*. Your Committee is reluctant to do this with inflation at such low levels but again let's have your views.

If it is accepted that we should continue with the Newsletter as it is at present and that we should not increase our Membership fees, at

least for the time being, then we can only meet our objectives by increasing our Membership numbers or be very constrained on the number of DXpeditions to which we can make contributions.

In this connection, do remember that at present we can only fund five DXpeditions in one year at around £200.00 per DXpedition. In the Committee's view, this volume of funding will be totally inadequate when propagation conditions start to improve. These amounts are also substantially smaller than those donated by other leading DX associations in Europe and are minuscule compared with the donations made by the large US DX foundations.

To summarise:

We can achieve our objectives in two ways:

1. Increasing income
2. Decreasing costs.

Increased income can be achieved by:

1. Increasing Membership fees
2. Increasing our Membership numbers.

Decreased costs can only be achieved by reducing the size of the Newsletter. Your Committee has opted for the route of increasing Membership numbers. All comments are welcome both as letters to the Editor and at the next ARM.

We were encouraged this year with the very high Membership renewal rate of over 95%. We contacted everyone who did not renew and their reasons fell, in the main, into two categories, namely financial or loss of interest in the hobby.

We have agreed to sponsor the January KH9 DXpedition to the tune of £200.00. This has been matched by the RSGB DXpedition Fund. In view of the difficult propagation conditions to Europe that the KH9 team is likely to face in January, we have suggested some suitable operating times and frequencies.

Your Committee has continued to be active and we thought Members might like to know of the headings we discussed at our November meeting. These included:

Finance
Membership report
DXpedition funding
Annual Dinner
HR Chaser certificate
Use of E-mail
Marketing
Newsletter including correspondence
Secretarial matters
Cadet scheme
Awards Manager
Legacies and funds
Constitution.

The Committee meets 4 or 5 times each year and each meeting takes between 2 and 3 hours.

I am also pleased to announce that Barry Cooper G4RKO, who heads up Yaesu in the UK, has kindly agreed to make an "HF Corner" available on the Yaesu exhibition stand. The next big show will be Picketts Lock (9/10 March) and we are planning for both CDXC and IOTA to be represented in the HF Corner. We hope to attract further CDXC Members and IOTA participants.

Arrangements are set up for the Annual Dinner at Crowthorne Berks on the evening of Saturday 2 March. Let's have a good turnout and support Vincent Denecker, G0LMX who will be talking about the recent Easter Island (XR0Y) DXpedition and about some of the technology used.

And finally, a question for our propagation experts. With my new beam on 40M I find long path ZL stations and short path CE stations sometimes coming in over Central America and JAs stronger over the North Pole than on the direct path. Could one of our experts please write an article on these phenomena and explain why this happens. (And yes, I have checked my beam headings and they are correct!)

See you at the Annual Dinner and/or at Picketts Lock..

JOTTINGS OF THE SECRETARY

Dave Mann, G0HXN

By the time you are reading this edition of the newsletter 1996 will be upon us. May I take this opportunity on behalf of myself and Jenny (Station Manager) of wishing you all and your families a happy and hopefully healthy and prosperous New Year.

As you will be reading later in the newsletter our annual dinner is taking place on the 2nd March 1996, I have tried to avoid all the contest weekends etc. etc., and as far as I can tell this will be a free weekend. Please try and attend if you can, the after dinner speaker will be an illustrated talk by Vincent Deneeker of XR0Y fame, so come and hear all about the high tech side of DXpeditions.

Playing radio has taken a bit of a back seat over the last few weeks as I have tried coming to grips with the Internet. As far as CDXC is concerned it is an ideal medium for me to get information quickly to those members who subscribe to one of the commercial outlets. At the last count there are now over 20 members in my address book, so what with those on the cluster and various BBS's I should be able to get messages to the majority of you fairly quickly. For those of you who have to rely on "snail mail", or in the nether regions of the World I am going to experiment with "On Air", I shall research the frequencies and bands to see when would be a good time and place to transmit without clashing to much with other established nets. That's one of my New Year resolutions....The other is to get the key pounding.

I have just finished reading the editorial in Ham Radio Today by Sheila Lorek G8IYA on "EMC? Who cares?" As you may or may not know at the end of this year under EEC regulations it will be illegal to place onto the market anything electrical which doesn't have the CE mark, meaning that it complies with the EMC emission and immunity standards. from what I gather to acquire this CE mark each item has to be tested, and can cost "£2000". One can assume by this that the major manufacturers will already be tooled up with the necessary equipment. One wonders how the small man will be able to cope with all this. Obviously EMC is something we can all do without, but I am also sure that as per usual the faceless bureaucrats forget about the Howes of this world, and the interpretation has been taken to its logical nonsense. I am sure that this one is going to run and run until common-sense prevails, although I have never met a politician with common-sense! What are your views ? As Sheila says in her editorial "Will more amateurs be sampling the challenges of QRP operation in future years?"

At the Works QTH we now have four licensed amateurs, and it has been really gratifying to see the amount of work that has been put in by them to obtain their ticket. They are now busy making their own receivers, and a Wednesday afternoon would fill the heart of an ardent key man because all you can hear in the workshop is a variety of 12 wpm QSOs going on, and when it's all mingled in together it sounds just like pile up. Visitors just stand in amazement. I might add that they all follow the various DXpeditions, and we always have a session to see the latest video al la 3Y0PI, VP8SSI or AH1A. If anybody fancies coming along one Wednesday afternoon between 1400 and 1600 please let me know and I am sure that a visit can be arranged.

Hopefully I shall see some of you at the Dinner, and to those of you who cannot make it 73

Ich wunsche Ihnen viel Gluck und viel DX , und ein gluckliches Neues Jahr

Je vous souhaite bonne chance et de nombreux DX, et bonne annee

Ti auguro buona fortuna e molti DX, e felice anno nuovo.

Le desco buena suerte y muchos DX, y ano nuevo.

Anatano kounto FB-na DX-o oinorishimasu, Shinnen omedetogozaimasu, Yoi otoshio.

Hopefully I have managed to greet most of our overseas members, sorry no accents on my machine, also haven't managed any Chinese, Welsh or Gaelic yet .....perhaps next year !!!!

Dave Mann, CDXC Secretary

LETTERS

QSO Definition

Dear Alan

We should be grateful to the CDXC Committee for re-stating what constitutes a valid QSO, and of course, to Chris, G4BUE. There is absolutely no doubt whatsoever that the objective of those calling a DXpedition is to get their callsign into the log, and for this to be achieved, the callsign, date, time, mode, report and band must appear in both logs.

A DXpedition to a rare country faces unusual situations. I would imagine that most members, though they would have liked to, have never been on a DXpedition and faced a barrage of thousands of DXers calling, breaking many rules of courtesy, frantic lest they miss making a contact while the DXpedition is there. We DXpeditioners overlook the many examples of bad behaviour, and seldom write to criticise, having been glad to have been of service to the ham community "out there". We feel for the DXer. We understand his sense of urgency. We are as pleased as he is to have that contact. Very often there is a sense that the DXer has also to be dispassionate. He has to "keep to the rules". It is tough if the DXer dose *not* make it, but there is nothing he can do about it.

Over the years the "rules" *have* changed in small ways; for example in the exchanging of signal reports. In order to process the maximum number of QSOs, operating split has become the vogue. The time taken in recording different signal reports for every contact has caused these to be largely ignored by the DXpeditioner. On Peter 1 DXpedition, the log was specially designed to ignore signal reports, and times were only recorded every 25 calls. The log, written manually for good reasons, was designed to facilitate fast entry. So, in a sense, two rules were not adhered to, but everyone was happy.

Now we come to callsigns "not in the log". I am a keen DXer. I have made valid and proper contacts and yet have found that my card, though not often, has been returned "not in log"! Why has this occurred? Because of operator errors. These errors arise from keeping the call rate high, and through fatigue. I spoke to a medical associate who confirmed that fatigue *must* result early on from having to decipher one out of thousands of calls being made at any one time. The anxiety and frustration often is severe. Errors therefore arise, even though the operator does not perceive that this is happening.. When he *does* perceive it, it is too late. He should have handed the log over to another operator, but what about a one man DXpedition?!!

Errors also arise from handwriting problems. Wayne Mills, N7NG, writing in "DXpedition Basics" discusses how to resolve problems over calls found "not in log". It is possible to analyse one's operating procedure from the point of view of errors made by the operator as confirmed by the QSL cards received. Many errors follow a pattern and discovering their nature can improve an operator's skills.....a consistent set of rules can be followed which will allow DXers a sort of 'due process' in trying to resolve these problems...". Wayne then goes on to describe a number of analytical procedures. He then says "it may be found that a similar enough callsign is found....and in many cases the operator or manager can feel comfortable that the entry really represents the QSO in question".

Wayne points out that hand writing problems alone (and computer entries as well) account for about 1% of the total. Other errors obviously account for further percentages. If we accept 2.5% of say 50,000 contacts, that is over 1000 errors.

He asks "Will anyone else request a card for this QSO? Maybe the requester will be asked to contact the holder of the callsign appearing in the log." He describes certain techniques, including those for CW.

As can be seen from this, a two way verbal confirmation can result in a card being returned "not in the log"!

Other problems arise when the operator picks up a 59 signal with a callsign which he calls correctly, and the DXer hears this correctly. However, the barrage of continuing calls and a similar voice makes him doubt, and he mixes a letter or indeed a correct prefix with the wrong suffix. He then tries to confirm the callsign again but, by that time, the DXer has disappeared.

Traditionally, most failed QSOs result from failure to copy due to poor propagation, too low strength signal sometimes submerged in heavy QRN or QRM. It does not usually occur when both signals are 59 when both signals are clear. Yet on DXpeditions, errors do occur in cases of fatigue and other causes, as described in this text.

In our case, (Ed:*ZL8/G4MFW*) we have tried to deal with the difficult cases using the methods outlined by N7NG. Both Phyllis and I discussed each case and the judgement had to be unanimous.

I mentioned "Gs" because the letter criticised by G4BUE was addressed to a DX organisation which is UK based. There are a meaningful number of G contacts recorded which have not sent cards. This possibly arose from a well meaning "policeman" telling the G DXers there was no good contact whereas both of us had copied well and validly.

Incidentally, whatever criticism we did receive was mainly from DXers who had confirmed contacts with previous DXpeditions to ZS8 etc.!

Barry Fletcher ZS1FJ/G4MFW

Alan,

The comments by the "CDXC Committee" on page 9 following G4BUE's letter aren't quite spot on target.

"The integrity of DXing requires.. Signal reports must also be exchanged directly between the two stations." This comment, while well-intentioned, perpetuates the myth that signal reports are a required part of a DX exchange.

The DXCC rules make no mention of signal reports. What is required is two-way communications. That's all. Of course any DXer may establish additional rules, such as no nets (or all QSOs in a net), all low power (or all high power), all QSOs on a Sunday afternoon, or whatever. DX stations may choose to confirm or not confirm QSOs based on their concept of two way communications, and signal reports may be part of that requirement. But the DXCC rules don't require signal reports. Most of the awards I've seen require something like "confirmed two-way communications". Any additional requirements, such as signal reports, are self-imposed by the two stations, they are not DXCC rules.

It's good to read news from and about my old friends in the UK! I hope to work many of you in upcoming contests.

And in case it matters - I exchange signal reports as a matter of habit in my QSOs as well. But if I worked a DX station in the Cal QSO party, where the exchange is a serial number and my county, and I received a QSL card from someone in my log, he gets my card, despite not having received a signal report.

73 de Dick, AA6MC (and still G0MFO)

Ed: Dick is correct that DXCC does not require signal reports to be exchanged. Nevertheless, the view of the CDXC

Committee is that best practice should include the exchange of signal reports.

CDXC Entry Criteria

Dear Alan

Re page 2 of the latest Newsletter, can I express my horror at the proposed change in entry criteria from countries confirmed to countries worked.

If club policy is to be that QSL cards are no longer of importance, can this be stated in black and white?

The suggestion by GW4BLE that CDXC becomes an elitist band like the FOC (as I gather it used to be) is 'way over the top', and the organisation seem to have got things just about right at present. But to swing too far in the other direction and have the premier DXer's club remove its requirement for confirmed contacts removes any prestige attached to the achievement of membership.

Sincerely,

Anthony Quest, G4UZN

<==+==>

Alan,

The magazine goes from strength to strength under your stewardship. The Club is thriving and membership is stronger than ever. All seems rosy.....

Not so, cries Steve Cole, GW4BLE, in the November Newsletter. The requirement level of only 100 countries is laying the Club open to the 'hoi polloi' of the hobby. "Set the entry level at 250 and make sure it takes a number of years to qualify". Why stop there? Let's make the minimum qualification the Honor Roll and we can keep almost everybody out!!

Surely Steve misses the point. DXing is about personal achievement. A 100 countries, confirmed, worked barefoot, on a simple wire antenna is for some a far greater achievement in relative terms than to have worked the 250 Steve mentions in his letter, especially if you happen to be running 400W (or more) using a monster multi-element Yagi mounted aloft an 80-100' tower. So what purpose would any such change to the entry criteria achieve?

Come on guys! Read the excerpts from the Constitution and Prospectus printed on the front of the Newsletter. It strikes me that CDXC stands for encouraging and promoting DX and Competitive radio, not pushing towards a more elitist club membership. The growth of the Club is healthy and we proudly purport to be The UK DX Foundation. Do we really want to exclude all but the chosen few? I think not.

Barry Cooper, G4RKO

<==+==>

Dear Alan,

I hope a word or two examining the criteria for membership of CDXC might add to righting the ship.

Reflecting on quotes from the front of November's Newsletter, "To promote excellence in HF operating" and "catering for amateurs with interest in competitive activity", I am not convinced this is achieved by requiring 250 Countries for membership. In fact, that seems to be "Quantity rather than Quality", exactly the concern expressed by Steve.

Does 100 countries confirmed equal 200 heard, or does 100 worked in a pile-up equal 200 worked in a correctly run net, (by that I mean callsigns and reports TX and RX exchanged without assistance). No, I think the current countries score of 100, strongly supported by a proposer and seconder,

maintains the intent and integrity of the Club.

Membership of the Club adds a responsibility to improve one's operating, and serves as a reminder of the standards required. Why confine this to amateurs with 250 countries confirmed?

Let us assume with the current entry level set at 100 countries, an average of all members is 200 confirmed - much better to have 300 members looking for the remaining 132 unworked, than 100 members looking for 32 (I estimate an average of 300 countries worked from an entry level of 250).

For those who strive for "Continuous Improvement" and wish to establish an Elite, we could issue different coloured Baseball Caps with the necessary bells and whistles attached to denote countries worked, "that rings a bell!".

Yours sincerely, Ross Threapleton (G4PEL)

<==+==>

Dear Editor

The debate on membership qualifications raises for me some sensitive issues, after all no-one like me likes to think he is not a member of the elite. Any ideas of two levels of membership are unacceptable in my opinion.

The debate did, however, make me think about what might be desirable characteristics of members, and I decided that it could be summed up in one phrase, '*being active*'.

'Being active' means not necessarily being active on the HF bands chasing DX, that's a given, but:

- helping at club functions, conventions, talking to the public
- welcoming visitors, recruiting members, novices
- contributing an HF article to a magazine
- joining one of the contests, entering contests
- going on mini-DXpeditions
- doing some technical work, antennas, computers
- giving the cluster team a hand and support
- and just trying new things.

I am sure you get the idea. Might be a New Year's resolution. That's what I think should be our personal membership qualification for CDXC. Its a lot more challenging than working 100 countries.

73

Bob (G3PJT), Dr. R. C. Whelan

<==+==>

Dear Alan,

CDXC MEMBERSHIP - HOW DID IT HAPPEN.....

At one time the Chiltern DX Club was a small group of dedicated DXers who organised themselves into an elite social club. They set standards for membership to ensure that their interest, discussions and purpose should not be eroded. They kept in touch using 144.525 MHz sharing DX information. Here in the South West of England there existed the Western DX Group, an informal group of like minded DXers. We also used 144.525 MHz and under lift conditions shared DX information and pleasant exchanges with CDXC members. On my visits to London I had the opportunity to meet CDXC members and enquired if I could become a member. My DXCC credentials were more than adequate but I did not live in the Chilterns "area". This was I believe in 1985-86 when CDXC consisted of a Chairman, G3LQP, Treasurer

G3YJI and a Secretary ? This request had to be thought about and on a visit to London I met with LQP and YJI to discuss it. We met at G3LQP's place of work in BT's Cardinal House in Farringdon. The outcome was that I became the first non-Chiltern area member of CDXC. and thus forged the link that brought many of the Western DX Group members into CDXC followed by others who could satisfy the 250 DXCC countries confirmed requirement. Before this opening up of CDXC the UK had no formal organisation dedicated to the interests of DX enthusiasts. Membership of CDXC was simply a matter of belonging and sharing. Later I became Secretary then President in 1991-92

CDXC started off in the days well before the DX Cluster when we actually spoke to one another to convey excitement about a DX spot. If you cast your mind back over the history and development of amateur radio you will quickly realise that the radio amateur has always been resourceful in adapting new technologies; progressing rapidly from the days of just CW and AM speech. The DXNS is still the basic means for communicating DX information but the years have supplemented this with first the two metre DX information frequency then voicebank then the DX Cluster and lately Internet.

In a similar manner, CDXC has evolved to bring together for mutual benefit all who wish to share and give support to our common interest. We have an excellent bi-monthly Newsletter and are able to make contributions to DX expeditions. This would not be possible without a sufficiently large enough membership.

As a membership qualification, 100 or 250 DXCC countries is not difficult for anyone with a real interest in DX operating. Since January 95, I have worked 232 DXCC countries without effort. Perhaps this yard-stick is becoming a little outdated. Supposing your principal interest is pursuing IOTA or contesting. Are these valid DX activities? What matters is that those seeking to join us are sufficiently interested in DX related activities and for that reason want to become a member. The criteria for membership of CDXC has been compared with that for FOC.. CDXC is not so widely different. Referring to the *CDXC Prospectus for Membership Application* there exists a means of filtering applications for membership. An applicant has to be proposed and seconded by existing members and quote: *CDXC members are expected to set an example to the HF community at large by their high standard of operating and by their readiness to offer support and encouragement to those new to competitive HF amateur radio.* FOC spell out their code of conduct in more detail: Members of FOC are expected to.... and then follows 17 credible points to be observed. These are all common sense statements of behaviour that we approve of and think we observe. They go further by publishing names of proposed new members in their monthly news letter so that objections may be raised before confirming membership. CDXC does not have to emulate FOC. I am quite content with how we accept new members and the encouragement we can offer them in their chosen amateur radio interest.

I very much value the fraternity that exists in CDXC.

Kind regards.

John Forward, G3HTA

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Dear Alan

As a Founder Member of CDXC I was a little saddened to read the recent letters from my friends Henry G3GIQ (September) and Steve, GW4BLE (November). I concur with

the statement attributed to Don, G3OZF, even if spoken in jest, and I can only assume that those so-called "top" DXers who are not members of CDXC cannot obtain sponsors! Seriously, if they choose not to support the major club for their interest they must, presumably, have their reasons.

However, that aside, what bugs Henry and Steve is the current low-level entry requirement for CDXC so I offer the following comments: When we founded CDXC the entry requirements were (if my memory serves) set at 240 countries confirmed for DXCC. In those days all members within the CDXC catchment area easily qualified so it was not a problem. At an AGM in the 80's, at my QTH, the decision was taken to "expand" CDXC to accept members from the whole of the UK. The primary aim was to enrol leading DXers who were outside the CDXC area a) because the founders believed that such amateurs would wish to be involved with the group and b) because there had been considerable pressure from the "outsiders" to open the club to them. Unfortunately, although there were enrolments from outside the original area , the level of support shown by many of those amateurs was fairly low. We organised a number of major social events to meet personalities such as 9N1MM, HC2OM and HC2YL, A35SN/W6SN, VU2RBI, VK9NS and VK9NL and, on numerous occasions, VS6CT. With one or two exceptions it was the same small group of "locals" who would support us. Complaints were received that the meetings were always in the Thames Valley area, but those who complained rarely (if ever?) arranged social events in their areas to which the Founders were invited. The turn-out of CDXC members for both the VP8SSI and 3Y0PI send-offs was appalling (about 18 for both and, according to my records, G3GIQ and GW4BLE attended neither). When Jim Smith was over a few months ago Ruth and I went out with him and had a magic evening. Dave, G0HXN, was the only person who showed interest in joining us, but he couldn't make the date - maybe the "top guns" were busy watching Coronation Street? I couldn't believe it - Ruth and I dining with the world's leading DX personality and nobody wanted to join us.

So, the original concept of an elite group of "Top DXers" who would be overjoyed and anxious to get together frequently to meet their fellow members and visiting DXers to talk DX rather fell apart at the seams. It was the same old problem - few would participate in activities and it was always (and still is) left to a handful of guys to organise things. Sure, it would be nice to have an elite UK group of "Top DXers", but instead of complaining about the lack of such a group, how about actually organising one? In one European country (HB?) all amateurs on DXCC Honor Roll meet annually, in the town of the last DXer to join, for a meal and general social get-together. Several leading UK DXers have suggested the formation of a "UK Honor Roll Group" to operate along similar lines. What has happened? Nothing! Unfortunately, Henry and Steve, apathy rules in UK amateur circles and whilst there are lots of good intentions there are few who are prepared to see them through to fruition.

There are still possibilities for those who wish to become members of an elite group; I offer the following proposal. How about a CDXC Charter Member category? To be open to UK CDXC members with at least 5 years membership, or those who have held office in the club, plus a DX qualification of some status, e.g. No.1 on DXCC Honor Roll, full 5BWAZ, 700+ IOTA Honour Roll, leading score in major contest, participant in major DXpedition, etc. Charter Members would be required to pay a subscription of 2-3 times the usual amount and guarantee to provide one article per year for the CDXC Newsletter. Charter Members would meet socially at least once per year (and a doctor's note would be required for non-attendance!). Charter Membership would provide even more funds for the Club and could answer the call of those desirous of an "elite group of UK DXers". How about it Henry and Steve.... and any comments from

other members? Please address comments to me to save the Committee from more work Alternatively, if somebody cares to organise a "UK 300+ Club", or something similar, I'd gladly support it.

Changes to the CDXC entry requirements are decided democratically at Annual Review Meetings; members are encouraged to attend but the turn-out is usually small. I too would like to have seen the entry-level maintained at a higher level than at present, but the decision was made to expand CDXC into the UK DX Foundation, which was probably one of the best decisions ever made for UK DXers. We, through CDXC, now play an important part in major DXpeditions through donations, loan of equipment and other logistical support. While those with elitist views may regret the "opening of the barn doors" we surely must accept that the benefits of this move are considerably greater than keeping CDXC for a small group of amateurs, many of whom would play absolutely no part in club activities. Most of the current Committee members have a little way to go to reach the top of Honor Roll but, by heck, they can run a DX Foundation like nobody before them and for that they deserve our heartfelt thanks.

Brendan J McCartney G4DYO
Founder Member CDXC

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Dear Alan,

I enjoy reading the Newsletter and would like to comment on Steve's GW4BLE letter.

I would say that the criteria of the Club is fine and should be left at 100 confirmed countries. I have been a member of CDXC now for one year, and met a few members on air, however I still would like to see some, maybe older members, suggest ways in which help for the club can be given. Helping DXpeditions is certainly needed and so is its achievement with the HF convention.

Steve has suggested a possible entry level of 250 countries. Well, I would rate myself as an active operator, having had 81,000 CW QSOs since coming on air in 1983, in 212 countries with 6 band DXCC. If the club had 250 countries as the entry level I would think twice at even trying to join. DXing is only part of the fun for me. I use the would *fun*, as this is in my view what hobbies are. I enjoy contesting, ragchewing, award hunting, and particularly now, working QRP. At home I use a G5RV in the loft due to severe restrictions, but still enjoy the hobby, contesting on QRP is just as fun as CQWW on 100 watts. Breaking pile ups is fairly easy once you have worked out where the operator is listening.

Does the club want to be another elitist group, or do we want to be a real club who can attract like minded active amateurs and who can give reasonable contributions to worthy DXpeditions?

73 de Steve G4UOL

Newsletter

Dear Alan,

Just a quick note to say I've just received the latest CDXC Newsletter. I have been a member for just a year now and have thoroughly enjoyed each edition, but this last one really was better than excellent, a lovely mix of articles for the enthusiast.

I'm a low key DXer, but nonetheless quite active, so this is a good way to keep me in touch.

Keep up the good work. From an appreciative Ham.

Derek Herd, G4SOZ

ADVANCE CONTEST INFORMATION

Ken Chandler, G0ORH

Welcome to the Advance Contest section of CDXC Newsletter. I hope you all had a Happy Christmas, and wish you all a Happy New Year. I trust that you all had a good competitive couple of months contesting.

There should be something for everyone at this time of year, and there is no excuse about doing the daily garden chores, so get the key/mike you had in your Christmas stocking out and have some well earned fun!

February and March of 1996 - doesn't time fly - sees a couple of fairly straight foreword contests. The RSGB's 1.8MHz CW contest is only 4 hours long, is competitive, but you don't have to be a winner to compete! I myself, and others, only use 100w rig output, and can usually make it into the top 10. It is surprising what a few Watts can do, Why not give it a try? Another good contest to enter is the ARRL-DX CW event in February. This contest is easy in as much as you only work USA stations, and USA works the rest of the World. Again, you don't have to be a winner to compete, and if you happen to work 500 stations you get a very nice Certificate for your efforts, so well worth it. In March, the ARRL-DX SSB event, is the phone version of this contest. March also sees the RSGB's biggest, apart from NFD, the COMMONWEALTH Contest 96. This contest is most useful, if you have a new antenna set-up try it out together with your newly acquired knowledge gained by reading perhaps the RSGB's book "HF Antennas for all locations", that you had in your Xmas stocking! There hopefully will be more DX this year to work than of late. I do hope more Gs get on the air as their absence last year was felt world wide! Finally, please remember to try and keep your speed down at times during a contest. It really does pay dividends, and gives the slower speed operator/casual points giver a fair chance to work you. After all, it is their contact you are after! Have Fun!

If, like some, you are still awaiting your QSL card for the EU-011 operation during the IOTA contest have no fear, the cards are being processed, sorry for the delay.

CONTEST RESULTS

CQ WW DX SSB (CDXC Members)

High Power:

GW4BLE 3,677,808
G/OZ7SM 84,100 (28MHz).

Low Power, All band:

G6QQ 144,856,
G4NXG/M 31,590
G4OBK 864 (28MHZ).

CQ WW DX CW (CDXC Members)

High Power, Single Operator, all band:

G4BUO	3,032,424	(4th in Europe.)
G0IVZ	2,308,068,	Low Power
G4OBK	19,513	(3rd in Europe on 28MHz)
G0AEV	26,829	(28MHz)
G3KDB	519,715	(14MHz)
G4ODV	192,717	(14MHz)
G3PJT	222,575	(7MHz)
G3XTT	68,388	(1.8MHz)

Low Power all bands

G3NKS	469,778	
G5MY	105,924	
G3LNS	5,162,808	(Multi Operator)

ARRL DX SSB 95.

ENGLAND

Low Power:

G0ORH 4,275 and Certificate Winner (Only G entry in this section, I only gave a few points away!)

High Power:

G3NAS 100,152
G/OZ7SM 41,145
G4BUO 60,858 (15MHz)
G4IUF 13,260 (15MHz).

WALES

GW4BLE 50,799 8th DX on 40MHz and Certificate Winner.

ARRL DX CW 95

ENGLAND

DX PLAQUE WINNER - CW (Single Op) (Europe)
Dave Lawley, G4BUO.
Congratulations Dave.

Low Power
G0ORH 504,504, Section Winner, and Certificate, for low power division up to 150watts.
G5MY 74,715

High Power
G4BUO 2,049,180, G3NKS 111,300, G4BUE 100,815 80MHz, G3MXJ 173,712 40MHz, G3TXF 205,200 15MHz, G4IUF 9,120 15MHz

WALES

GW4BLE 9,900.

ALL SCORES CW

CALL	POINTS	QSOs	MULTs	PWR
G4FDC	54,288	232	78	A
G0ORH	504,504	1078	156	B
G3KNU	179,670	530	113	B
G0LII	155,364	484	107	B
G3RSD	91,665	315	97	B
G5MY	74,715	293	85	B
G4ZME	59,052	259	76	B
G3ESF	37,062	213	58	B
G3JKY	35,904	187	64	B
G0MRH	24,912	173	48	B
G4BUO	2,049,180	2788	245	C
GB5AR	1,870,026	2746	227	C
G2QT	453,048	878	172	C
G5LP	154,500	412	125	C
G3NKS	111,300	371	100	C
G4BUE	100,815	715	47	C 80
G4BLX	56,088	492	38	C 80
G3MXJ	173,712	1034	56	C 40
G4IQM	7,722	117	22	B 40
G3IGW	61,950	413	50	C 20
G3TXF	205,200	1200	57	C 15
G0TDX	26,910	230	39	B 15
G4IUF	9,120	95	32	C 15
GM3XNJ	92,340	450	76	B
GM3ZAS	44,460	260	57	B
GM3MHG	58,077	239	81	C
GM3POI	246,060	1367	60	C 20
GM3CFS	17,214	151	38	B 20
GW0KZW	6,300	100	21	A
GW4BLE	9,900	75	44	C

ALL SCORES SSB

G0ORH	4,275	57	25	B
G3TTJ	157,590	618	85	C
G3NAS	100,152	321	104	C
G2QT	81,225	285	95	C
G/OZ7SM	41,145	211	65	C
G4BUO	60,858	483	42	C 15
G4WTD	27,750	250	37	C 15
G4IUF	13,260	130	34	C 15
GI0UJG	183,183	1001	61	C 20
GI0KOW	59,502	422	47	B 15
GM0ECO	10,248	122	28	B 80
GM4FDM	207,180	1151	60	C 20
GW4BLE	50,799	413	41	C 40

A=QRP; B=LOW POWER; C=HIGH POWER.

OVERSEAS CDXC MEMBERS. ARRL DX 95 SPECIAL PLAQUE

Fred Laun K3ZO Atlantic Div CW.

ARRL SSB Section Winner.

K3ZO	1,843,875	1639	375	C

ARRL CW Section Winner

K3ZO	2,860,398	2598	367	C

My apologies if I have left you out of any of the above contests results.

CONTEST RULES

RSGB 1st 1.8MHz CW 1996

When: 10/11 February 96 Time: 21:00 - 01:00 GMT

Freq: 1820 - 1870 Mode: CW only.

Exchange: RST + Serial Nr & your County code.

Sections: Single-operator entries only.

(a) British Isles.
(b) Overseas including EI.

Scoring:

Overseas stations only work British Isles stations.

Section (a) Three points per contact plus a bonus of five (5) points for the first contact with each British Isles County worked and the first contact with each Country (outside the British Isles) worked.

Section (b) Three points per contact plus a bonus of five (5) points for the first contact with each British Isles County worked.

(See November 95 Newsletter for County Code lists).

Awards:

The SOMERSET Trophy will be awarded to the leading UK entrant.

A certificate of merit will be awarded to the first three entrants in each section.

ARRL DX CW

When: February 16/17th. Time: 00:00 - 24:00UTC.

Freq: 160,80,40,20,15,10

Mode: CW Only in recognised portions of the bands.

Categories:

***Single Operator*:** one operator performs all functions, logging, and operating. The use of Packet cluster or other spotting systems is not permitted.

All band.
(a) QRP: 5W output or less.
(b) Low power: 150W or less.
(c) High power: more than 150W output.

Single band (only one).
NOTE, single band entrants who make contacts on other bands should submit logs for checking purposes.

Single Operator Assisted: As single operator above, but the use of packet cluster or other spotting systems is permitted. There is no restriction on the number of band changes or length of time spent on a band.

Multioperator: More than one person operates, checks for duplicates, keeps the log etc.

Single Transmitter. One transmitted signal at any given time. Once a station has began operating on a band he must remain on that band for 10 minutes. Violation of the 10 minute rule through improper logging etc., will result in the entrant's reclassification to the Multi - Multi section.

Two Transmitters. A maximum of 2 transmitted signals at any given time, on different bands. Once either station has began operations it must remain on that band for 10 minutes before moving frequency. Violation of the 10 minute rule will result in reclassification to the Multi - Multi section.

Unlimited. (Multi - Multi) A maximum of one transmitted signal per band at any given time.

Contest Exchange:

W/VE stations send RST & State or Province. DX stations i.e. Gs, DLs etc., send RST plus power (3 digit number indicating aprox power.)

Scoring:

QSO Points: 3 points per W/VE QSO. Multipliers: The sum of US States (except KH6/KL7), plus District of Columbia (DC), NB (VE1 or VE9), NS (VE1), PEI (VE1 or VY2), PQ (VE2), ON (VE3), MB (VE4), SK (VE5), AB (VE6), BC (VE7), NWT (VE8), Yukon (VY1), NF (VO1), Labrador (VO2) worked per band. Maximum of 62 per band.

Final Score:

QSO Points Times Multipliers. All entries with more than 500 QSOs must have a Dupe sheet for cross checking purposes.

Send your entry to: ARRL contest Branch, 225 Main street, Newington, CT 06111 USA. Entries must be post marked no later than 30 days after the ARRL SSB contest.

RSGB 7MHz DX CONTEST 96.

********NEW RESTRICTED SECTION********

When: Saturday 24 February to Sunday 25 February 1996. Time: 15:00 GMT Saturday - 09:00 GMT Sunday.

Freq: 7000 - 7030Khz

Mode: CW Only.

Exchange:

RST & Serial Nr + County Code.

Eligible Entrants:

British Isles and Overseas (including EI). Single and Multi operator entries will be accepted.

Sections:

(a) British Isles Open
(b) British Isles Restricted
(c) Europe including Easter Island
(d) North America, South America, Africa, Asia
(e) Oceania. The open section has no Antenna limitations.

In the Restricted section, only ONE antenna is allowed which must be a single element with a maximum height of 15m.

Scoring:

British Isles stations contact overseas stations. Each completed contact with a station in section (c) will count 5 points, in section (d) 15 points, and section (e) 30 points. Multipliers are as per General rules.

Overseas stations contact only British Isles stations. For each completed contact stations in section (c) score 5 points, in section (d) score 15 points, and in section (e) score 30 points.

Multipliers: One for each British Isles County worked. The final score is the total of contacts points times the number of Multipliers worked.

Closing Date for Logs: 31 March 1996.

Awards:

Single operator: The Thomas (G6QB) Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the leading British Isles station. Certificates of merit will be awarded to the second and third placed British Isles stations, and to the leading entrants in each overseas section.

Multi-operator: Certificates of merit will be awarded to the leading groups in each section. Additional certificates may be awarded at the discretion of the HF Contests Committee.

ARRL DX SSB CONTEST 96

When: March 2nd/3rd 1996 Time: 00:00 Saturday - 24:00 Sunday 96.

Freq: 160,80,40,20,15,10 Recognised portions of the bands.

Mode: SSB Phone Only.

Exchange: RS plus your power level in 3 digits.

The rules for the ARRL SSB contest are as the ARRL CW rules (above).

Logs to reach ARRL HQ by first week in April.

RSGB COMMONWEALTH CONTEST 1996

When: 9 March - 10 March 96. Time: 12:00 GMT - 12:00 GMT.

Freq: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28MHz bands.

Mode: CW Only.

Exchange: RST plus Serial Nr.

Eligible entrants:

British Isles entrants must be members of the RSGB. Overseas - licensed radio amateurs within the British Commonwealth or British Mandated Territories.

Categories:

Single Operator: entrants may not receive any assistance whatsoever during the contest, including the use of spotting nets, packet clusters or other assistance in finding new bonuses. Headquarters stations, GB or other special event callsigns and maritime/aeronautical mobile are not eligible.

Sections:

(a) Multi-band
(b) Single-band. Single band entrants should claim for points for contacts made on one band only, but are requested to submit details of contacts made on other bands, for adjudication purposes. Multi-band entries will not be eligible for single-band awards.

Frequencies: Entrants should operate in the lower 30 kHz of each band, except when contacting Novice stations operating above 21030 and 28030 kHz. Crossband contacts will not count for points or bonuses.

Scoring: Contacts may be made with any station using a British Commonwealth prefix except those within the entrant's own call area.

NOTE, for this contest, the entire UK counts as one call area, and therefore UK stations may not work each other. Each completed contact scores 5 points with a bonus of 20 points for each of the first three contacts with each Commonwealth call area on each band.

Headquarters Stations: A number of Commonwealth Society HQ stations are expected to be active during the contest and will send `HQ' after their serial number, to identify themselves. Every HQ station counts as an additional call area and entrants may contact their own HQ station for points and bonuses.

Logs: Separate logs and lists of bonuses claimed are required for each band. Each entry must be accompanied by a summary sheet indicating the section entered and the scores claimed on each band (also don't forget details of equipment, your address and any interesting photographs for publication!).

Closing Date for Logs: Logs must be

postmarked no later than 8 April 1996.

Awards:

Multi-band - The Senior Rose Bowl will be awarded to the overall leader, and the runner-up will be awarded the Junior Rose Bowl. The Col. Thomas Rose Bowl will be awarded to the Highest-placed UK station. Certificates of merit will be awarded to the third-placed entrant overall, and to the leading station in each call area.

Single-band - Certificates of merit will be awarded to the leading overseas and UK entrants on each band.

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That's it for this Issue. My thanks go to RSGB & RadCom, DXNS, QST, & CQ Publications for without them much of the information would not be available.

Lastly, if you're running a contest station and perhaps need an extra operator, then let me know, I can do no more ! I do hope that you have a successful contesting time and look forward to working/hearing you soon. Thanks. 73s de Ken.....G0ORH

SOLAR ACTIVITY OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Jim Smith, G0OFE

The month of October saw a very welcome rise in solar activity, then fell away somewhat in November. This, combined with the seasonal changes, produced some reasonable propagation for this stage of the solar cycle.

Average solar flux in October and November was 78 and 74.2 solar flux units respectively. The highest flux was 92 on the 12th October, and the lowest was 70 on the 5th October. The running 27 day average of solar flux began the period at 71.7 units, and rose to 79 units (the highest since April) at the beginning of November, before falling away to 74 units by the end of the period.

Geomagnetic Activity rose somewhat in October, with the first 10 days of the month being somewhat disturbed, with another disturbed period around the 20th. Conditions were less disturbed in November, particularly after the 10th with many days having an A-index of 5 or less.

It is interesting to look back at the 1984-6 period, the minimum phase of the last cycle. Then, geomagnetic activity was considerably higher than present, the a-index averaging some 14-18 units annually. Compare that with this year - the last few months has seen the A-index average about 10 units. Does this explain the much better conditions on Top band during this minimum so far, compared with 1984-6, that I have been reading about on the Internet? Any 160m ops like to comment?

The annual mean solar flux at the end of November (and centred on May 1995) was 78 units. In 3 out of the last four solar cycles this level was reached about 12 months before the official minimum so mid-1996 still looks favourite for the minimum of Cycle 22.

As for the likely size of Cycle 23, well.. predictions vary! I recently received 'The New Shortwave Propagaion Handbook' from the publishers of CQ Magazine. Amongst a wealth of information including DIY propagation predictions, Sunspots and the solar cycle, and HF propagaion prediction software, it contained a chapter on sunspot cycle predictions. It contains a list of various predictions for the peak of Cycle 23, and these ranged from very low, to the highest yet recorded. I guess any predictions made this side of the solar minimum, for the peak of the next cycle need to be taken with a warehouse of salt!

Happy New Year - and good DX!

CQWWCW FROM GUERNSEY

Ivan Davies, G3IZD

As I mentioned in a previous article I have, since taking early retirement, taken an increased interest in, SSBFD excepted, CW contests. Until this year however the CQWWCW had served only to give me some new countries and/or IOTAs.

However all was to be changed for DXNS 1690 contained a note that should anyone care to operate during the contest from GU3HFN then they should contact Steve, GU3MBS forthwith. Visualising a large number of people interested I immediately phoned Steve who had Des, GU4WRP sat with him at his QTH.

It seemed that I was currently only the second applicant, the other being N4TQO, from California no less. So with my welcome assured the next step was to ascertain travel possibilities.

"How nice to see you again Mr. Davies" said all the Dolly birds in my friendly local travel agents.(yes, too many holidays now I've ceased to be gainfully employed). A few taps on the keyboard (wish I could type as fast !) showed very convenient, and direct, flights daily to and from Manchester so I left with the tickets in my pocket and not such an enormous debit in the plastic bank.

The next day written info arrived from Des including the news that another amateur GU0ELF had a guest house so another quick telecon confirmed my accommodation. The info also advised that CT was to be employed, with all its facilities for what was intended to be a multi/single entry. I knew something of CT and I had even bought a copy of V9.23 at Dayton but did I know enough, the only contest software I'd used until now was SD and even that only post-contest. More reading and re-reading of the "drill-book" provided considerable enlightenment so the next consideration was on-line typing, practice was patently needed and there was less than 2 weeks to go !

I have a copy of PED, which of course has a CT trainer mode, and with which I toyed at times when the bands were quiet, however my simple home-brewed 386 PC didn't have a sound card so no QRM. OK off to town again to the new local computer shop E****M, a short discussion, waggle the 'plastic' and off home with a multi-media update which all went in and worked fine except that the now QRM-full PED is not loud enough at all. I therefore quickly installed a short lead from one of my new stereo speakers and plugged it into my MFJ DSP filter. A quick tweak of the input gain control and all was working FB lots of audio, QRQ CW and much more than all the QRM I could handle. The set-up also provided a really fine demonstration of the facilities of the DSP filter.

Now we're cooking and on to the practice, soon I'm clocking up Q rates which to me were quite impressive, and more importantly, improving, and so I continued, a couple of sustained sessions daily and I found I could up the QRM level from time to time. Further and live practice was conducted during the RNARS CW contest and the 160 metre one, both however using SD which seemed more compatible to those particular contests.

Thursday November 23 arrived and off to the airport by train, there being several direct trains daily from Barrow-in-Furness to Manchester airport. "Where is the plane?" "Oh, there it is, hidden behind someone's suitcase!" Not your actual Jumbo but very comfortable (more so in fact than my ex-company's planes in which we were crammed) and, with a northerly wind, very punctual too. There at Guernsey International was the smiling face of Jim with transport to his most comfortable and

beautifully furnished guest house. After a yarn over some tea it's off to St. Peter Port for a recce, pleasant town, cobbled streets and good shops and restaurants with particularly fine seafood menus.

The next morning we were off to the shack to meet Des and the gang to complete the fixing of antennas and final raising of the tower. These were dipoles for 160, 80 and 40 and a 3ele tribander for the remainder. Rigs were two FT990s and a linear, essentially for the HF station. It was resolved that we would be a multi-multi in order to provide a little more "running " type operations for all. As I said CT was to be used with stations linked and with cluster support.

Following more yarn-spinning, and for me some more sea-food the start time approached and it was to be Steve GU3MBS on No. 1 station on top band with myself on No. 2 on 80. So off we went with much rattling of keys and beeping of computers. After 5 or 10 minutes Steve said "Why am I not seeing the 80 metre scores?" "Cos there aren't any " was the embarrassed reply, for indeed, despite all indications being normal and sidetone audible I'd had no replies at all. The trouble was eventually found to be that the input from the keying interface was a stereo plug instead of the necessary mono type. This was not diagnosed or rectified until 0735 that morning so much two-station time was lost.

Steve graciously delivered me to the keyboard at about 0130 or so, so off I set for my first stint in a major contest, from time to time black coffee was delivered and I guess I must have been conducting myself tolerably for looking around a little later I found myself quite alone in the shack.

The next guys on arrived at around 0630 and prised me from the chair and back to Jim's for some zzzzzzs, breakfast around 1130 and back to the shack for 1200, we old G3s need our Zeds. As I noted both stations were now operating correctly and so we continued throughout the remainder of the contest. I shall remember for some time the pile-ups I experienced, particularly from W/VE on 20 on Sunday afternoon and on 80 later that evening.

Access to the cluster was very tortuous so sadly little use could be made of it and few DX mults were actively chased thus "running" was the normal state, the prefix obviously helping to keep us well employed. The end eventually came, with quite a few still calling away, so switch it all off and away for a shower and more zeds (yes, no night-cap !).

Back to the shack quite early next morning to lower the tower and remove the 160 meter dipole. This action was carried out with some attention as the field which contained one end was guarded by a large and reputedly athletic Guernsey bull.

Quick merging of the log files provided basic raw scores thus :-

B	Q	Z	C	D
160	491	9	51	24
80	991	15	58	55
40	615	15	53	19
20	883	21	60	21
15	588	18	52	30
10	1	1	1	0
	3569	79	275	149

Total = 2, 070, 546

I think that the high incidence of dupes on 80 can be accredited to me as, on 80 "running" on Sunday evening, it was easier to work them than to argue. However it is still only 5.5% as compared with 5.1% on 15 and 4.8% on 160 so maybe not too bad.

For me a most memorable experience in all respects and I'll certainly attempt even more contests on-line and await the next chance to get at the other end of the pile-up!

73 es gud DX Ivan G3IZD/KC1AN.

CQWWCW95 - Single Band 160m

Don Field G3XTT

CDXC members will know that 160m is my favourite band, and this seemed the right moment in the sunspot cycle to make a serious effort on 160 in the CQWWCW contest. How right this was to prove!

Time to get ready

My preparations for the contest start early in the week, making sure I have CT properly configured and with the latest COUNTRY.DAT file, and that the station equipment is set up in the most effective way (which includes fitting a recently-purchased 250Hz second IF filter for the FT-1000). The RSGB 1.8MHz contest, the weekend before CQWW, is also a chance to have a dry run. Rather than take the beam down, I have installed a 20ft extension pole above the beam, and erected a quarter-wave inverted-L for 160, which puts the highest point at almost 80ft. I work 18 North American stations in the RSGB contest, which is unusual, so everything seems to be in order. Of course, life is never so straightforward, with Murphy always lurking around the corner.

A couple of evenings before the contest TY5MF shows up on 160, and I am able to work him for a new one, though I am a little concerned that the antenna SWR seems to be varying quite a bit. The following morning ZF2RR is spotted on the Cluster and I work him for a second new one on the band in less than 12 hours. However, there still seems to be a problem with varying SWR. Not to worry. I have planned to take Friday off work to make my final preparations.

Friday morning, and an auspicious start with CO1OTA spotted on 40 CW. NA-093 as a new IOTA to start the day. I go outside to lay some more radials (one can never have enough), and come back in to see a spot for ZL7CW on 10MHz. A nice one, but I don't have a 10MHz antenna up at the moment. Thank goodness for antenna tuners. John G3WGV, sends me a Cluster "Talk" to say he has just worked the ZL7, so if John can do it with a dipole and 200 watts, I might just manage by running the linear into my 40m vertical. It turns out to be easier than I expect, and I catch the ZL7 second call. Soon afterwards John spots Roger TY5SXW on 15 CW and we have a quick QSO, wishing each other luck for the contest. Hope Roger will make a point of looking for me on 160!

This is turning out to be a fruitful day, and the morning still has one more new one in store - PY2HA on 20m SSB for SA-071, another new IOTA for me. However, I have noticed that the 160m SWR and resonance is changing as I turn the HF beam, so there is clearly an interaction, which is disconcerting to say the least.

John G3WGV arrives with the latest Turbolog release, and after installing it we adjourn to the local for lunch and a pint (or two ..). I notice that the wind is getting up. My Hilomast is aluminium and is already overloaded, with a TH5 and 20ft extension pole. Together with the SWR problems I reluctantly come to the conclusion that there is only one solution; I must take the beam down.

Of course, the afternoons are getting pretty short at this time of the year, and by the time I have removed the beam, and reinstalled the 160m inverted-L, with a break to collect my son from school, it is almost dark. Fortunately the resonance is in the right place, although the SWR at resonance is well over 1.5:1. This is good news in one way; it means that the impedance of the whole system is down around the 25-30 ohms mark, which suggests that the radial system

is working well. But my antenna tuner doesn't want to tune out the mismatch. My nice new linear (an Alpha 89) trips out if reflected power is too high, but fortunately this proves not to be a problem as I have no intention of running at its full rated output in any case, so I can stay well within the tolerance limits.

So it looks as though there is nothing more I can do, other than spend the evening with the family as they won't be seeing too much of me over the weekend.

Kick-off

Back into the shack soon after 2330 and 160 is starting to get lively, with a number of contest stations testing on the band. At about 2345 I hear FM5BH with a good signal. This is one of the easier ones that I still need; for some reason I have kept missing him. Two calls and he is in the log! This is my country 198 on 160 on the current list, so that magic 200 is almost in the bag. As it turns out, FM5BH is getting warmed up for a serious 160m effort in the contest - I am destined to run across him time and time again over the course of the weekend.

0000 and it's all systems go. A lively start, with my first US contact (AA8U) at 0005 and 91 stations in the log in the first hour (this sort of rate is unimaginable on 160 in this contest for our North American friends). The next excitement is at 0112 when TY5A calls me for a nice double multiplier; what it is to have friends in rare places! I work FM5BH at 0130, so that's two contacts with this new one in less than 2 hours. I continue to run at a good rate, with plenty of North American stations, including a good sprinkling of 9s and zeros. But the big surprise comes at 0417 when I am called by AD6C. I ask him to confirm zone 3 as it seems quite early to be hearing the West Coast, but to prove it is no fluke the very next caller is N6DX! My next zone 3 is N6SS at 0557. Despite the good signals from North America and the consistently strong signal from FM5BH, I work no other Caribbean stations the first night. I hear KG4MN, but he is leaving only very short breaks between transmissions and seems unaware that he has a big European pile-up. I also hear FG5BG and V31UA, but can't raise either of them. The V3 would have been a nice one; I still need that on 160. Shortly before the band closes I hear a big pile-up calling HC8N. Trey, WN4KKN, is the operator and he has the good sense to work split. I raise him first call and he replies to me by name! A fantastic double multiplier, though not an all-time new one for me on the band (I worked N6EK/HC8 back in 1988).

By the time I call it a night at 0800 I have 401 QSOs, 55 countries and 14 zones, which feels like a pretty good start.

The Saturday evening session promises to be a long slog, working one point Europeans, but there are some nice surprises. I work SU2MT for a double multiplier at 1811, and shortly afterwards find a clear frequency to call CQ. The first station to call me is ?L7XX. Must be a UL7. But no, it's KL7XX! I haven't worked KL7 on 160 since 1987 when KL7H and KL7Y were on Endicott Island way up in the Arctic Circle, but as far as I know KL7XX is somewhere in civilisation, so this is a very rare catch.

K1ZM calls me at 2016. Jeff is clearly aware that this is a dupe, but is checking propagation as it is almost an hour before his sunset. He is a good signal with me.

I waste about 45 minutes in the 2045-2130 window trying to work a JA multiplier, but without success. It is galling to hear G3PQA and G3SED make the QSO; I'd love to know the secret of their success, but the European pile-ups are fierce.

At 2203 I am called by Dennis GJ3YHU,

which completes all the UK countries except for Shetland. Dennis has a problem with CQWW CW as it is invariably the nearest weekend to his son's birthday, but he usually tries to get on for an hour or two to give out the GJ multiplier.

At 2329 VP2MDE calls me. Thank goodness. I was beginning to think the Caribbean was a black spot, even though I am still stumbling across FM5BH at regular intervals. By midnight, half way through the contest, I have 75096 points, from 614 QSOs, 66 countries and 18 zones. That's ahead of my full-time score for last year, which was an English record for single-band 160 (GW3YDX is the UK and European record holder with 154,376 points).

Day 2

At 0006 I hear PY0FF with a good signal and work him first call for another double multiplier. And another big surprise, K7CA in zone 3 at 0045, right on his sunset. This turns out to be the start of my most amazing run of the contest, with what seems like a pipeline into the mid-West. I work K0GU K0SF KD0ZR K0EU W0RXL K0RF NC0P AB0X W0CP K0FF N0BG and KR0Y in the next hour, along with lots of 5s, 8s and 9s. I am convinced there are people calling that I can't pull through. The vertical is a great transmit antenna, but a bit noisy on receive. No space for Beverages here. Maybe another year I must try a EWE or some sort of receiving loop.

At 0331 I am called by 9Y4H for another double multiplier, and P40W gives me another zone 9 multiplier at 0634. W6PBI and N6LL give me two more zone 3 contacts just after 0700 and then I hear a big pile-up calling YS1ZV, which would be another double multiplier. I put his frequency in the second VFO and keep returning there to give him a call. Eventually I put this one in the log at 0719. A minute later, finding a clear frequency to call CQ, I am called by NA7R in zone 4. I check the zone as I wasn't sure, and he tells me it's Wyoming. Sounds good to me! A few minutes later I work WB0O. The call rings a bell and I check my station log. Yes, I've worked him a number of times on the high bands and he's in North Dakota. Now that's a very nice one on 160!

Sunday evening promises to be a dreary round of CQing and search-and-pounce to catch those few stations who might be appearing on 160 for the first time in the contest. I work VE1ZZ at 1928. After the contest I check my station log, and this is by far the earliest I have ever worked North America on 160 (though, in fairness, Jack qualifies as an "honorary European" with his location and fb topband signals).

I am not expecting to work more than a couple of new multipliers this evening, though I must make another effort to catch a JA. It is while listening up for JA that I hear 3V8BB with a good signal on 1910, working European stations at a good rate. I listen for a few minutes and don't hear him give any listening instructions, but assume that he must be listening down in the lower part of the band. I don't hear any obvious pile-ups, but I do hear 7Z5OO with hardly any callers, and work him easily; guess everyone is busy chasing the 3V8.

I am obviously getting tired, because it takes me a few more minutes to realise that the 3V8 is actually listening on 1911kHz. My antenna SWR is horrendous up there, but I guess everybody else is in the same boat, and I manage a quick contact, despite having to keep the power down at a fairly low level.

About 2215 I hear a big pile-up, and find 5X4F, with a fair signal but a bunch of callers who never seem to listen. Fortunately he works Riki 4X4NJ, who suggests he start operating split. This speeds matters up considerably, and I put him in the log at 2252 for a double multiplier and my first all-

time new one of the contest. That's number 199! Guess which band I will be focusing on once the contest is over ..

At 2319 I hear 3A/K1VWL calling CQ and work him second call. 10 minutes or so later I hear him again with a horrendous pile-up; presumably in the meantime some kind soul has spotted him on the Cluster. Glad I caught him when I did. My last multiplier comes at 2346; ES1RY. This is an easy one which had somehow slipped through my fingers until now.

The noise level has been rising for the last couple of hours of the contest; S7 rain static. Thank goodness this didn't happen earlier in the weekend.

Time to look back

My final claimed score is 137,600 from 880 QSOs, 78 countries and 22 zones. I heard 9 countries which I failed to work (FG 4K8 KG4 YV V3 JA VP5 XE and V4), and after the contest I check the packet spots and the Internet Reflectors and find that I also missed DU 7X ZD8 HH A9 8P9 NP4 6Y5 JT PY OX 8R, and no doubt some others too. This means that at least 99 countries were heard/worked by European stations over the contest weekend, so it really does look as though one day some well-equipped and diligent operator will achieve DXCC during a 160m contest. Who knows, it may even have been done this year by one of the multi-ops with their Packet spotting and big antennas. My final score would have won Europe in 1994, but I suspect this year there will be some very high scores posted. It's a pity G contacts don't count for points; someone like GW3YDX can count on at least another 5000 points from G QSOs alone. On the other hand, this rule puts DL1IAO (one of my main competitors) at a severe disadvantage; I'm sure he worked far fewer Gs than I did DLs.

After the contest I am able to do some analysis of the log. High QSO totals are with USA (220), DL (168), OK (38), UR (36), F (36) and OH (34). 240 North Americans, 4 South Americans, 22 in Asia, and 7 in Africa. No Oceania. Not a bad weekend, all things considered! Roll on CQ WW 160 ...

CALLING ALL CONTESTERS

Dave Lawley, G4BUO

The RSGB is looking for two experienced contesters to represent the UK in the World Radiosport Team Championships to be held in San Francisco next July.

The event will be organised along similar lines to the first ever WRTC which I attended in Seattle in 1990. This time I don't plan to go myself but have been asked to assist with the selection process.

Please see page 33 of December RadCom for more information about the event, and if you may be interested in going to California for WRTC 1996, contact me ASAP. If anyone thinks they may be interested please get in touch with me on the cluster or give me a ring on 01892 870400.

UK contesters figure well in quality, if not quantity, in many of the major contests and WRTC will be an opportunity to compete with others from around the world under closely matched conditions.

Dave G4BUO

EMAIL ADDRESSES

The following are additional email addresses of members:

New

AA6MC	dieven@almaden.ibm.com
G0LUJ	geoff@g0luj.demon.co.uk
G3NUG	neville@g3nug.demon.co.uk
G4RKO	cooperb@g4rko.demon.co.uk
G4UJS	bobg4ujs@netcentral.co.uk

Amendments

G3PFS	davkin@netcom.co.uk
VS6CT	102222.2036@compuserve.com

CQ WW CW 95 -- UK/EI RAW SCORES

Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF

Multi-Multi

TY5A 10,208Q 163Z 563C 22.0m

	160	80	40	20	15	10
Q	95	871	2243	3653	3010	335
Z	14	24	33	38	35	19
C	47	83	109	132	126	66

Ops: G3SXW, GM3YTS, N7BG, KC7V, K5VT

GX0AAA 6,257Q 164Z 550C 9.2m

Q	652	1354	1484	1781	945	41
Z	19	28	37	36	34	10
C	73	100	124	113	115	25

Ops: G3MXJ, G3TXF, G3WVG, GW4BLE

Multi-Single

EI7M 3,248Q 126z 416C 3.7m
GB5WW 3,034Q 138Z 445C 3.5m

Q	256	642	1038	873	224	1
Z	15	21	38	35	28	1
C	58	80	119	103	84	1

Ops: G3LZQ, G3SJJ, G3WYW, G3ZRS, G4BYG, G4DRS

GS4TMS 2,006Q 82Z 243C1.1m

Q	443	474	262	714	113	-
Z	15	15	17	21	14	-
C	55	49	56	49	34	-

Ops: GM3FDN, GM4DGT, GM0AZC, GM0KMD, GM0KWL, GM0MZB, GM0TTY, GM0UUB

Single-Op Assisted (Packet) Hi-Power

G3ZEM 2,702Q 138Z 445C 3.37m

	160	80	40	20	15	10
Q	372	634	531	895	262	8
Z	18	23	32	30	30	5
C	65	87	104	93	89	7

Single-Op (No Packet) Hi-Power 160 80 4

GI0KOW 3,668Q 119Z 413C 4.1m (Op:GI0NWG)

Q	536	565	1030	1158	363	16
Z	15	16	32	28	22	6
C	62	72	97	89	77	16

G4BUO 2,846Q 137Z 424C 3.6m

Q	351	586	778	648	472	11
Z	15	21	33	33	30	5
C	56	68	100	94	96	10

G3KDB 2,183Q121Z 348C 2.4m

Q	250	629	274	656	378	5
Z	13	21	31	28	24	4
C	57	65	79	64	78	5

G0IVZ 2,684Q 118Z 357C 2.3m

Q	240	759	699	676	290	20
Z	10	21	30	28	20	9
C	46	69	78	77	71	16

Single-Op Low Power (100W) - Packet

G5LP 1,224Q 101Z 323C 937k

	160	80	40	20	15	10
Q	-	520	335	212	153	4
Z	-	20	29	22	26	4
C	-	77	98	67	77	4

Single-Op Low Power (100W)-No Packet 160

G3SWH 1,300Q 80Z 293C 861k

	160	80	40	20	15	10
Q	110	337	278	383	190	2
Z	7	12	22	19	18	2
C	44	58	74	68	47	2

G0DEZ 1,053Q70Z 197C 521k

Q	27	272	339	258	154	3
Z	2	10	20	18	18	2
C	19	49	54	42	31	2

G3NKS 815Q70Z 210C 466k

Q	60	158	181	250	164	2
Z	7	10	18	17	17	1
C	31	43	53	51	30	2

Single Band (160m)

G3XTT 880Q 22Z 78C 137k
GM3YOR 602Q 18Z 62C 89k

Single Band (80m)

G0LJI 543Q 14Z 63C 54k

Single Band (40m)

GM4FDM 1475Q 35Z 111C 324k
G3RTE 207Q 33Z 88C 51k

Single Band (20m)

GM3WOJ 876Q36Z 105C 246k
EI6FR 1,014Q28Z 94C 223k(100w)

Single Band (15m)

G4ODV 683Q33Z 110C 236k ??

REPLACEMENT BADGES

Lost or damaged your CDXC badge? Replacements are available for £2.00 from the Secretary, Davaid Mann, G0HXN.

NEW DX-CLUSTER IN SCOTLAND

UK PacketCluster Network

******* SDX SUPPORT GROUP *******

The SDX Support Group are delighted to announce that our GB7NDX DX-Cluster project has now come to fruition ahead of schedule. GB7NDX was enabled on Sunday 17th December and is operational from the QTH of Bill Penicuik GM4WZY in Brechin, Angus, on 144.675 MHz.

The SDX Group gratefully recognise that this has been a project requiring co-operation and financial support from many quarters besides our own resources and technical department, and advise that there is still a great deal to be done now with a user access network for Perth/Dundee & Aberdeen. It is hoped to have much of this installed by the end of January. The SDX Group wish to thank Bill GM4WZY for giving GB7NDX a home, to the Aberdeen ARS for their generous donation of £200 towards the cost of the DX-Cluster software for GB7NDX and the loan of equipment, Stewart GM4AFF for his generosity in supplying a computer/rlc card/radios and also to the MacPAC Group for use of the Glasgow/Angus route that forwarding between GB7NDX and GB7SDX takes place on, plus the loan of a 70cms radio.

73 de Ray GM4CXM Secretary: SDX Support Group.

VK2SG SILENT KEY

UK PacketCluster Network

RTTY operators will be sad to hear that Sid Mole, VK2SG, died of a heart attack yesterday (Friday December 29th). Sid had been ill for some time. He was one of the driving forces behind RTTY "down under", and will be sorely missed.

Message Posted by G3OZF, 30th December 1995

MY TRIPS TO THE ISLE OF MAN

Steven Muster, G4UOL

The Isle of Man

The Isle of Man is located in the Irish sea around 40 miles from the mainland. It is 13 miles wide and 33 miles long. It has superb rich landscape, in fact 227 square miles, from 17 glens to the island's highest mountain Snaefell, which is Norse for Snow mountain. Snaefell is 2,036 ft high and on a clear day are views of the English Lake District, the hills of Galloway in Scotland, the Mountains of Mourne in Northern Ireland, the Wicklow Mountains of Eire and the Snowdonia National Park in Wales.

It has its own stamps and currency, and also its own parliament called Tynwald. The Manx parliament is the oldest in the world with over 1000 years of continuous self governing. On Tynwald Day at St. Johns, the now rarely used Manx language is spoken as the new laws of the land are read out. Although The Isle of Man has its own tax system, it is accountable to the UK's parliament.

The two things famous about the Isle of Man is the TT racing every June and the railway network, which is kept going by enthusiastic volunteers. However, in my view it has a great deal more to offer.

On a more serious note, however, Manx is now hardly known by most people and its hard to find any real Manxman as most have left the island. Crime is sadly on the increase. When I first went to the island in 1988, people used to leave cars and houses unlocked. If there was any crime it was reported on the local Manx Radio, and usually resolved speedily. Sadly this is no longer the case. It seems that the crime on the mainland has finally arrived on the Isle of Man.

Amateur radio on the island

There are around 200 GDs on the island, which includes about 75 HF licensees. However of these 75, I have only ever worked 16 of these over 12 years on air on CW only. The regular GDs on CW are GD3YDB, GD3FXN and GD0LQE. GD4BEG used to be very active on 160m, but I have not worked him for a few years. The other most active amateur on CW was GD3RFH, Ken. However he has since left the island. There are two repeaters on the island, GB3GD on 145.625MHz and GB3IM on 433.125MHz.

The Isle of Man Radio Society is the only club on the island. However, it is divided in 3 meeting places, which does not help team participation. The main meetings are at The Royal Navel Association, Regent St, Douglas on Mondays, The Manx Legion, Douglas St, Peel on Thursdays and an irregular meeting in the south of the island in Port St. Mary. The club has in 1995 put on some special event stations, but activity on HF, particularly in contests is sadly very low to nil.

Why I go to the Isle of Man

In 1987 I was pondering about a DXpedition after working a few rare ones. I had a choice then between Guernsey, using a friend's set up, or going alone. I decided having looked at old CQ mags that one country was always lacking out of the 7 UK DXCC countries. The Isle of Man seemed a good choice. Having never tried this sort of thing before and not seeking any advice, I started my hunt to find the ideal location on the island. I spoke at length to the tourist board, trying to explain why I wanted a remote detached cottage to set up my station. I am still not quite sure if they understood.

1988 and 1989

In 1988 I went to the 'ideal' cottage selected

by the tourist board. It was a row of cottages with some space at the back for antennas. However we all shared the same TV aerials with, yes, you have guessed it a mast head amplifier. In spite of superb conditions, my only antenna, a G5RV, was poorly located and resulted in only 3,440 CW QSOs including CQWW! TVI was one problem. The other was the mains supply which I did not realise until it was too late. The voltage was 280volts, which my poor 930 could not keep up with, the power supply said farewell on the 8th day.

In 1989 things improved somewhat as I was able to visit the cottage the year before. I had a larger plot, and put up a long wire in one direction and the G5RV in another. The pile ups were fairly good with 4,839 QSOs in the paper log.

The new location

In 1990 my new location on the island was the one used to date. In 1988 the tourist board did mention in a letter that they had been advised that a local ham offered his shack for my use. However at the time I did not take it up. As things turned out the amateur was John GD4UHB, whom I worked in September 1983, when just licensed, and using a mode that I have only ever used for about 100 QSOs - SSB! I met John in 1989 in Peel and he offered the use of his shack and antennas which I have used every year. 1991 produced 7,500 QSOs. From 1992 onwards I have used a laptop to do the logging, which is a bit noisy RF wise but beats pen and paper.

The 1995 trip

John enjoys making up different antennas. He has a 3 ele Yagi at 40 feet, which works fine. However every year I visit him (the same two weeks of the year), he changes the wire antennas for me to test out.

Propagation this year, was a mixed bag. The worst propagation was on the LF bands 3 or 4 days on the trot, in the first week, where all signals disappeared apart from the odd SM/LA. 7MHz was empty from 1900 UTC till about 2300 UTC, 3.5MHz was very noisy with static making contacts difficult, and signals were very low in the noise. 1.8MHz was fair but again suffered with static. By the middle of the first week things improved dramatically, particularly on the Wednesday. At 2030 UTC I was called by KL7XX on 1.835 where I was working into Europe. When he first called he was about 339, however after about a minute of him calling, (I was only getting the XX) he came up to 579. So a great one was worked.

The pile ups were good, however 18MHz was a real struggle, I think it was mainly conditions. As in the past JA pile ups were easy. The best two bands by far were 160m, the first week, when the sloper was working, and 10MHz. This band was amazing. I always found in previous years that by about 1000 UTC CQs went unanswered. However this year I knew the HF bands would not be in good shape, so I concentrated on 10MHz. The best times were from 1030 UTC 'til 1400 UTC. At one point I had a JA and USA pile up at the same time with similar signals both from JA and USA. I cannot recall having this on any other band apart from sunspot maximum. Conditions were however patchy. Some days 14MHz presented more pile ups than 10MHz, whilst other days the reverse happened. Quite odd really.

Before the contest I used the sloper plus both an end fed LW 240 ft and a G5RV full size. The G5RV was the first antenna to die. The SWR would not stay below 3:1 after a few days. We put this down to the connection box, which links the two sides of the antenna. As soon as we took this out the SWR was a solid 1:1. It seems that these commercial antennas are not built for the weather that hits GD. During the contest I

was confined to the beam and a noisy G5RV which we used as an end fed antenna. It was about 90 degrees to the sloper, which meant Europe was very weak and the line noise from nearby overhead wires was louder than the European and DX stations.

CQWW Contest

This year's CQWW test was a bit of a disaster, as two hours into the contest we were struck by the worst storm of the year. We had gale force winds over force 10 and very heavy rain. While I was transmitting, the heavy rain and wind damaged beyond easy repair my main antenna for the LF bands. It was a sloper antenna with one loading coil designed for 160/80/40, this was the antenna which worked the KL7 and the same evening the best pile up to the states on 160m that I can recall, with mid USA signals peaking over 10 dB over at about 2200 UTC on 160m.

In the contest I tried to get as many multipliers on the LF bands as I could and particularly concentrated on 21MHz. This band although open did not present any real chance of running stations on the 100w apart from Stateside; as it appears that I only had to call CQ once, work one USA station, and then was swapped by W's !.

This was the second year I had permission to use the Isle of Man Society call, GT3FLH. However, it was only aired on the last day for about 5 hours. In 1996 I hope to put it on for 2 days, rather than one. I have below some tables showing QSOs made during the 1995 trip and in the CQWW. Also QSOs to date from the island. I hope you find them of interest. I visit the island the same two weeks every year, to enable GD to be worked in CQWW and of course to increase the 9 band DXCC I am trying for.

1995 DXpedition (including CQWW)

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
160	439	7	55
80	756	11	55
40	1138	12	61
30	879	19	56
20	2015	27	94
17	84	11	29
15	274	22	66
12	0	0	0
10	3	1	2

Total 5588 QSOs in 117 countries. 5989 inc. GT3FLH.

1995 CQWW

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
160	174	6	41
80	213	11	49
40	124	10	44
20	458	19	68
15	251	21	58
10	3	1	2

Total 1223 QSOs 715,770 pts claimed as low power 100w single op.

1988 - 1995 Totals

(representing 16 weeks on air as GD4UOL)

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
160	2061	11	62
80	6549	17	92
40	8390	27	117
30	3053	24	89
20	12309	38	158
17	1347	24	79
15	9113	36	154
12	376	17	56
10	5381	34	146

Total 48579 QSOs in 40 zones and 197 countries

I hope you found this short article of interest. I certainly have gained a lot of experience and enjoyed my trips to the island. I take my car across from Heysham, Lancs, on the Friday and as I return on a

Saturday, the trip back is via Liverpool. The sea crossing takes around 5 hours. Some years have been as calm as a river, whilst others have been very rough. The worst was in 1994, when we had gale force 10, and the captain gave a short message saying that we maybe in for a rough ride the first hour or so of the crossing.

As soon as he said that, and the ship had left Douglas harbour it felt like it had tilted to 45 degrees. All the newspapers and magazines in the shop were sent flying off their racks and I, needless to say, was rather sea sick. I guess this is one of the sacrifices us amateurs have to put up with. What I do not understand however, is why the Isle of Man teenagers go on a day trip in December to Liverpool for shopping. They spend 4½ hours each way on the ship, for about 4 hours in Liverpool Xmas shopping!

GOOD IDEA FOR TRAINING NEW Ops

Got a call from WA0RJY/7 who invited me to come "teach" at one of his *contesting college* courses. He has brought a group of our local club members that want to learn more about contesting together, and put them together with some of us old race horses that might be able to teach a few tricks and strategies. I didn't attend the one last time, but heard it was great fun and a lot of folks went home with new enthusiasm for this part of the hobby. I wasn't planning for a hard-core SS weekend so it works great.

I'll bet there are half a dozen or more folks in YOUR CLUB that would love to be able to sit in and learn without having to jump in cold on their own. Folks....*maybe that's where the new contesters are*...in your club!

I'll ask Ward N0AX and Jack WA0RJY/7 to explain on here in more detail this week for those who are interested. Sounds like a great idea.....maybe it'll work at your place too.

73 de K7SS, Teacher, RATE 101

HF CONVENTION 96

Colin Thomas, G3PSM

Planning has now started for the 1996 International HF and IOTA Convention to be held over the weekend of October 4, 5 and 6. (*Ed: Please put in your diary now!*) These dates were the only ones available at the Beaumont Conference Centre during September and early October 1996 and as a result we have a clash of events which includes the 21/28 MHz SSB Contest and the annual FOC Dinner. If conditions are on a par with this year the clash with the 21/28 MHz SSB Contest will not cause any problems and I am glad to say that we are talking with FOC to avoid any major organisational clashes.

The lectures at the 1995 HF Convention proved so successful that many visitors were unable to get into the lecture rooms. We have now been offered additional space at the Beaumont and we shall utilise this as best we can.

An exit poll at this years event has revealed a requirement for more lectures of a technical nature in addition to running lectures more than once during the weekend.

I am taking this opportunity to solicit "notes of intent" from those of you who are willing and able to offer presentations of a technical nature that have HF applications.

You will note that as for 1994 we shall also host the annual IOTA Convention in parallel with the HF Convention and this should also attract a large number of overseas visitors.

Let's make it the best ever in 1996.

Colin, G3PSM Chairman, RSGB HF Committee/1996 International HF and IOTA Convention.

KH9 - WAKE ISLAND DXPEDITION

Lloyd Westbrook, K4HQI

The Dateline DX Association announces its 1996 operation from *Wake Island (KH9)*.

Operation will commence on January 24th 1996, and run until February 1st 1996. This one week operation by four experienced operators is designed with the intent of removing KH9 from the 100 most wanted list, especially in Europe, where it ranks number 26.

In May, Tom Harrell, AL7EL conducted a one week operation while on the island for business, and completed 2000+ QSOs. Because of low power and wire antennas, openings to Europe and the Near East could not be taken advantage of, and contacts were limited. This operation confirmed the need for a full scale effort.

The present slate of operators is AL7EL, WB2DND, K4HQI (*Ed: A CDXC Member*), and KC7V, who are all accomplished contesters and/or DXpeditioners.

There will be three stations with amplifiers and directional antennas. A Battle Creek Special will be utilised for 80 and 160 metres. 6 metre operation will occur as well as satellite activity, with equipment provided by JA8CDG. Ham Radio Outlet is again assisting with arrangements. Hy Gain is providing two tribanders, their new DX77 vertical Windom, and a 6 metre beam. The 59(9) DXReport and WX9X will also again support the QSL effort. We are currently soliciting for radio support, and hope to be able to utilise some of the latest equipment available on the market.

Ed: The above is the text of the official press release for the DXpedition. In an accompanying letter, Lloyd says a real push will be made for European QSOs. RTTY is also a possibility. Financial support is sought from all sources. The CDXC Committee and the RSGB HF DXpedition Fund have agreed to fund the DXpedition, following an assurance that bureau QSLs will be answered, with a donation of £200 each. Lloyd has promised an article, with pictures, for the CDXC Newsletter. As a result of this funding, the team have stated that they will make a big effort to work G stations. QSL via AL7EL. The following additional information is from WB2DND via the UK PacketCluster Network:

Wake Island is currently a limited access US Military Installation located 19° 17' N, 166° 39' E. It is the first American possession in time zone #1, approximately 2300 miles West of Hawaii. The current population is all affiliated with support operations and there are no hams presently resident on the Island. There are no commercial flights and permission to visit is by invitation only.

The Dateline DX Association is open to suggestions from the DX community as to needed modes/bands. We will use pilot stations in Europe, Africa and the East Coast to maximise contacts with these hard to reach destinations.

An Internet home page will be maintained and email to Wake will be available.

Ed: January is a difficult time for working the North Pacific from G. 30m and 40m are likely to give best results. The KH9 team have been advised that the best times on 40m are up to 09:00z and between 15:30 and 18:30z. They have been asked to stand by for Europe regularly, and have confirmed that they are permitted to operate in the 7075-7100 SSB window.

Don has agreed to post the information about operating times, and standing by for Europe, at the operating position.

The Internet home page address will be advertised on Packet Cluster. Good luck!

M1OOG UPDATE

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

Here is an update to the M1OOG QSO totals. I have now built the complete log, and corrected a number of error in the QSO totals reported last time. The table below shows the final numbers, with the addition of country scores.

Call	QSOs	Countries	Date
G3OZF	1855	73	27-Aug
GW3JXN	1411	71	25-Aug
GM3WOJ	1372	92	07-Sep
G3RBP	1276	62	30-Aug
G4DYO	1036	83	26-Aug
G3MCS	1008	68	29-Aug
G3PJT	815	54	02-Sep
GD3UMW	726	59	28-Aug
G4JGV	700	63	01-Sep
G3VMW	650	59	12-Sep
G4OJH	623	61	14-Sep
G3PMR	617	47	04-Sep
G5LP	600	55	10-Sep
G3KNU	500	46	05-Sep
G0OPB	494	43	06-Sep
G0NYL	419	47	18-Sep
G3RTU	406	35	17-Sep
G0OFE	353	42	03-Sep
G4BWP	246	44	13-Sep
G4UJS	240	45	15-Sep
G0SWG	190	37	31-Aug
G3XYP	179	36	20-Sep
G4PFF	148	31	16-Sep
G4PDQ	133	31	21-Sep
G3RTU	64	20	19-Sep
G4BUO	58	21	08-Sep
G4JVG	44	17	11-Sep
TOTAL	16163	154	

The breakdown of countries by band and by mode is shown in the next table:

Band	QSOs	Ctrys
1.8	138	30
3.5	2317	59
7	2718	78
10.1	679	53
14	9926	141
18	221	51
21	14	10
24	1	1
28	4	4
50	4	3
144	131	5
432	10	1
Total	**16163**	**154**

Mode	QSOs	Ctry
CW	6923	10
SSB	8903	14
RTTY	198	3
FM	139	
Total	**16163**	**15**

QSLs

If all goes according to plan, we shall be trying a new way of producing QSLs this year. Rather than printing labels, I shall print the QSO information directly on to the QSL. This will save all the effort of sticking on the labels (which is a non-trivial task for 16,000 labels!). However, this is all subject to a trial run which has yet to take place. All being well, QSLs will start to be sent out during January.

WELCOME!!

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome the following new members to CDXC:

G0EHO	Bob Mellor, Redbourn, Herts
G0LUJ	Geoff Hughes, Harrogate, N. Yorks
G3SED	Mike Devereux, Southampton
G4IDL	Tom Wade, Mexborough, S. Yorks
G4OTY	Michael Mason, Bradford On Avon
GI4OPH	Timothy Crawford, Bangor
PA3GIO	Bert van den Berg, Woudenberg

The Committee hopes that all of you will enjoy being members of CDXC, *The UK DX Foundation*, and that, where possible, you will get involved in CDXC activities.

David Mann, G0HXN, Secretary.

BK 599 TU

John Forward G3HTA

Ever heard of the "Braaten Code?" It is the only information conveyed in most DX QSOs. Its rarely used above 29.7 MHz and compared with when first introduced has become almost a routine and has little value these days. But it has to be there else the QSO is not valid for most awards and contests. The Braaten Code is the RST or RS system we use to report the other stations signal.

The library at RSGB Headquarters has a wealth of information especially from the early days of amateur radio. I was searching for references to local clubs in the Wireless World and Radio Review. That was the first journal of the RSGB until the Society published its own T & R Bulletin in 1925. Signals received were reported in the journal in a number of amusing ways and it occurred to me, how did we arrive at the RST system used today. Research led me to the T & R Bulletin for October, 1934 where Arthur Braaten , W2BSR reviewed current methods and proposed his "Standard System of Reporting Signals". I think his opening remarks apply just a much to how we use his system today: *"It is obvious that the method now used by amateurs for reporting or describing signals is little better than worthless."* That was 1934 - I wonder what he would say today! Yes he was the same Arthur Braaten who gave to the RSGB a trophy to be awarded annually to the winning G station in the ARRL CW DX Contest.

Really there was total confusion about reporting signals. In those days it mattered how well one was received and whether the tone and characteristics of a CW note were satisfactory. Reports received were considered as a measure of a stations efficiency and good standing. The use of QSA, QRK, the 'T' code and the FRAME code were all used but there was no standard. Stations would perhaps give a report as: QSA 3 QRK 7 T 5. This was translated as: strength of your signals fairly good, readable but with difficulty; good strong signals, copyable through QRM and QRN; Nearly a DC tone, but has key thumps. The use of QSA had become corrupted. The exact meaning is "the strength of your signal is...." but here it was being used for readability. QRK should be used for the intelligibility of signals but this had been mixed up with the "R" code of audibility introduced in QST in 1925. The QSA code was introduced after the "R" code and was intended to replace it but in the transition both were used and so the confusion grew.

Most transmitters were crystal controlled and home built. There was much discussion about the merits of the various types of oscillator such as Colpitts, Clapp, Hartley, Pierce and tri-tet. Some would even claim to be able to recognise the circuit used from the keying characteristics of the transmission. So it was important to receive a report on how the note was perceived at the receiving end. This was another jungle as it was intended to report tone only - not key clicks or something called back wave. Many would not use the "T" code because there was no standard. I suppose today it is of no value at all and we could happily dispense with it. It would make a lot of things easier and allow a bit more time in CW contests to cram in a few more QSOs.

In 1926, RCA introduced the FRAME code for reporting commercial point to point communications. These letters stand for:

F	Frequency
R	Relative strength
A	Amplitude variation
M	Musicality of note
E	Estimated readability

Each of these characteristics is divided into a

scale increasing from 1 (poorest) to 9 (best). This system found little favour with the radio amateur but it demonstrated the desirability of having a definite scheme for reporting signals and was the motivation that caused Arthur Braaten to develop and propose his Readability - Strength - Tone (RST) system. This is what amateurs were trying to achieve but without a universal standard to base their reports on.

Use of QRK and QSA would no longer be used. Instead a typical report would be simply: RST 579 or when using speech: your signals are R5 and S9. I wonder why some say: you are Q5 ? The aim was to remove the confusion that existed between strength, readability and audibility. Audibility was rather silly and depended largely on the audio amplification of the receiving station. For readability he proposed a scale of 5 as follows:

Readability

1	Unreadable
2	Barely readable - occasional words distinguishable
3	Readable with considerable difficulty
4	Readable with practically no difficulty
5	Perfectly readable.

What Arthur Braaten proposed for reporting signal strength made a lot of sense but since 1934 it has been modified to include four further descriptions between each of the original five making a scale of 1 to 9. Really I fail to see why it was necessary to change this later to a nine point scale. This is how he set it out.

Signal Strength.

1	Faint - signals barely perceptible
2	Weak signals
3	Fairly good signals
4	Good signals
5	Very strong signals

A perfect tone code is almost impossible to devise, given the wide scope for interpretation, bearing in mind that in 1934 the sound characteristics of CW note could and probably did vary considerably. Arthur Braaten used most of what had been described for use with the Traffic FRAME code with revisions for amateur practice.

Tone

1	Extremely rough, hissing note
2	Very rough AC note - no trace of musicality
3	Rough low pitched AC note - slightly musical
4	Rather rough AC note - moderately musical
5	Musically modulated note
6	Modulated note - slight trace of whistle
7	Near DC note - smooth ripple
8	Good DC note - just trace of ripple
9	Purest DC note
	If the note appears to be crystal controlled simply add an X after the appropriate number.

I wonder what a DC note is?

The current edition of the RSGB Amateur Radio Operating Manual shows these descriptions word for word except for the four added intermediate levels of reporting for signal strength. When did you last give a report of T1 or even T8. I suggest the T could be done away with. Look at the original proposal for signal strength - a five point scale that could be much more meaningful today. Most logging programs especially those for contesting insert a default 599. If you want to be popular in the CQWW CW give out some RST 237 reports (or even 589!). On RTTY what does giving

599 really mean? Do you listen carefully to the tone? The terminal knows if the signal is readable and if it is strong enough it will print to screen. The only value the signal report has today is to ensure that in a list operation the station has actually heard the DX or failing that has managed to guess his report correctly

Arthur Braaten ended his proposals for a standard system of reporting by saying "It is my belief and hope that this new system will be favourably received by amateurs all over the world." Thanks Arthur, it has served us well for more than sixty years but now I suggest it is in need of change once again to meet the needs of amateur radio today.

A SIMPLE DVK

Dave Lawley G4BUO

It seems unbelievable that just a few years ago, the only gadget which could help relieve the voice from the strain of endless CQing in a phone contest was the tape loop. I only ever once saw one of these work successfully. For a few years now the DVK (Digital Voice Keyer - a curious term!) has been around in various guises, either as a stand-alone unit or as a card for the PC, and some modern rigs even incorporate a digital voice record/playback feature.

In the June 1994 edition of Radio Communication, the now-defunct *Simply Silicon* column described the ISD1020 chip, which can be used to make an extremely simple DVK providing up to twenty seconds of audio record and playback. The ISD1020 is the same chip which is used in the 'Chiptalker' originally described by K5FOG in December 1991 QST and published in several editions of the ARRL handbook.

RadCom in June 94 gave the price as £17.61 but by the time I came to place an order in December of that year the price had gone DOWN to just £7.70. Unfortunately the company's adherence to their ISO9000 procedures led to delays and mix-ups but I finally received the device at the end of February and had just enough time to put together a simple DVK which performed flawlessly in the ARRL phone contest. Instead of tying all address lines to ground as shown in RadCom, I borrowed the Chiptalker's arrangement of diodes and a transistor to provide one 5-second and one 15-second memory. I didn't get round to adding a 4001 to provide PTT control as done in the Chiptalker, but the DVK keyed the VOX on my IC735 without any problem. A DPDT switch routed audio from my Heil headset either straight through to the rig or to the chip input, set in record by the second pole of the switch. Output from the chip was simply connected to the straight-through microphone line via a small preset.

About 18 months earlier a friend of mine had sent to the States for the ISD1020 chip and built a version of the Chiptalker which incorporated some additional features. He had major problems with hum when he tried to incorporate an internal power supply, so I learned from his experience and simply powered mine from an external PP9 battery and internal 5V regulator. The battery easily lasted through all the hours that 21MHz was open to the States over the course of the weekend! Simple mains-powered supplies are also available and this is probably the simplest way of powering the unit in the long term.

Before I got around to adding circuitry to drive the rig's PTT line and an interface to the PC for use with CT, I was very fortunate to acquire a Neltek DVK-100. This was probably the first commercial DVK to be widely available and is much more sophisticated than my simple unit, although both the DVK-100 and my home-brew version have excellent audio quality.

For a contester looking for a cheap but effective CQ machine I can thoroughly recommend the ISD1020 and I will be happy to supply circuits of the Chiptalker and my cut-down version to anyone who sends me an SAE.

DSP CORNER

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

This new DSP Corner is for users of the new DSP rigs. Let us have your views and any information that may be of interest to other users. The rigs we want to cover are:

ICOM IC-775DSP
Kenwood TS-870S
Yaesu FT-1000MP.

YAESU FT-1000MP

Neville G3NUG comments as follows:
I am really delighted with the new rig. I ran the MP alongside the IC-781 with an external Timewave DSP filter for a number of days and the MP was definitely superior. My first QSO was with a UA9 on SSB on Top Band where at present I use a very noisy Windom. I could hardly hear the UA9 on the IC-781 with all the noise but had an excellent QSO with the MP. This really proved the case to me.

I have changed some of the initial default settings in the function setting facility as follows:

1-3: Main VFO-A tuning step size from 10 Hz to 1.25 Hz.
1.4: Sub VFO-B tuning step size from 10 Hz to 1.25 Hz.
1-9: Clarifier tuning step size from 10 Hz to .625 Hz.
2-9: IF Notch mode from IF Notch to Select.
3-4: Dimmer (Display Brightness) from Hi to Low.
7-7: SSB(RX) EDSP Mod. And Demod. From Off to 100-3100 Hz.
7-7: SSB(TX) EDSP Mod. And Demod. From Off to 100-3100 Hz.
8-2: Split Operation from Norm to A-B.
8-4: Front End RF Amp Selection from Flat to Tuned.

Let's hear from other users about their settings and reactions to the MP.

My thanks to Barry Cooper of Yaesu UK for his help in interfacing the MP to my Icom 4KL fully automatic linear. My thanks to Don G3OZF for helping me to get TL3 (Version 7) talking to the MP. A cable using D plugs wired 2-2, 3-3, 5-5 with the screen connected to 5 is the right one to use. Do not use a "null-modem" cable which is wired 2-3,3-2,5-5. This was the easy part! I had an ICOM IC-781 previously and the RIGSPEED in the TL.CNF was set at 1200. This needs to be reset to 4800 by editing the CNF otherwise TL3 will not talk to the MP. This particular problem may only affect those moving from ICOM to the MP John Linford G3WGV has been advised about this as RIGSPEED cannot be changed from the TL3 set-up menus and I know that he would prefer that the CNF file is not edited by users.

73 Neville

INTRUDERS

UK PacketCluster Network

Hi Folks, following my recent message about reporting intruders over the Cluster network, I contacted Chris, G4BOH who deals with such matters and he is only too pleased to accept reports from us.

Pete, the SysOp of GB7UDX has volunteered to co-ordinate the reports so should you hear an intruder in the Amateur bands, please send him a MAIL MESSAGE giving, date, time, freq., callsigns and anything else you think might be relevant (e.g., is it often there (?on a sked?), is it point to point or broadcast, etc., etc.). *Please do not "spot" the intruder* - put the details in a mail message addressed to GB7UDX, entitled "Intruder info." Many thanks for your co-operation.

(Message from GB7DXC, December 6th 1995)

SECOND RECEIVER OUTPUT MODIFICATION FOR THE TS850

Gary Hinson, G4IFB

The rules for RSGB National Field Day were recently amended to allow the use of a second receiver but (at least in Restricted Section) just one antenna. The second receiver can be used as a "spotter", for example to keep an ear on 28 MHz for sporadic-E openings, or to check whether there is sufficient activity on another band to justify a band-change. In the absence of a top-of-the-range transceiver with a second receiver built-in, I was prompted to make following modification to my TS850 such that an external receiver could be connected to the single antenna, yet be disconnected automatically when the TS850 transmits.

The modification is described in detail step-by-step below, but first you will need the following items:

- a small length (about 20cm) of miniature coaxial cable, for example Maplin part number XR88V (note - the characteristic impedance of miniature coax is typically 75 ohm giving a mis-match to the 50 ohm impedance of the rig and antenna system, but such a small length of cable is required that there is no noticeable effect in practice);
- a coaxial "line" socket e.g. SO239, BNC or Belling-Lee (again, the impedance mis-match caused by using 75 ohm connectors has a negligible effect);
- a fine-tipped soldering iron and multicore electrical solder;
- a "number 2" cross-head (Phillips) screwdriver.

NOTE: a modification such as this is liable to void the manufacturer's warranty - proceed at your own risk. It also involves a fairly delicate soldering operation so *do not attempt this* unless you are competent and confident at soldering.

1. Switch off the power and disconnect all external leads to the rig. Clear a space on the table in which to work.

2. Remove the rig's top cover:

   - Remove 11 cross-head screws (3 on each side, 2 front and rear on the top, and the last one centrally on the top panel - don't remove the 4 screws holding the loudspeaker to the top panel!). Keep the screws safely in a container to one side.
   - Carefully lift the top cover until you can reach the loudspeaker cable - remove this by pulling off the small white plastic plug from the socket mounted on the printed circuit board under the loudspeaker.

3. It is probably easiest to turn the radio so the rear panel is towards you. Remove the metal lid from the TX output bandpass filter unit in the middle at the rear of the TS850, with a black rubber section attached (which normally insulates it mechanically from the top panel). There are 7 cross-head screws to remove.

4. Find the small printed circuit board immediately behind the rig's SO239 antenna connector. The black rectangular relay on this board is the main TX/RX changeover relay. Remove this board from the radio:

   - Carefully disconnect the two coaxial cables by pulling out the miniature push-fit plugs from the board-mounted sockets, and pull out the white plastic plug connecting the control wires to the board.
   - Remove both mounting screws.

- Unsolder the SO239 socket from the board - both inner and outer connectors need to be unsoldered - and lift out the board.

5. This is the fiddliest part of the job - get help now if you are not confident at soldering! Solder your short piece of miniature coax to the underside of the TX/RX relay board, in parallel with the TS850 receiver output connector labelled "RAT CN6". The coax should preferably exit to the rear of the board so that it will pass directly through the TS850 rear panel when reassembled. The coax centre conductor should be soldered to the "RAT CN6" pin nearest to the small coil labelled "L13", and the braid to the adjacent (centre) "RAT CN6" pin which is earthed. Check carefully that the joints are good (shiny and clean), and that no solder blobs or flakes remain on the board.

6. Pass the free end of the new piece of miniature coax out through the gauze on the rear panel of the TS850 - you may need to enlarge a hole in the gauze slightly, but the coax should be a fairly tight fit.

7. Replace the TX/RX relay board in the radio, pulling the miniature coax through the rear panel as you do so. Reconnect the board by reversing the instructions given in section 4 above - connect all three leads (two coax leads, one 3-wire lead - the plug is polarised such that it is only possible to connect it one way, namely with the red lead towards the 1k ohm vertical resistor) and don't forget to solder the SO239 back on to the board. Once again check that your solder joints are good and no wayward blobs of solder remain.

8. Replace the TX output bandpass filter unit cover and its 7 screws.

9. Replace the rig's top cover, not forgetting to reconnect the loudspeaker lead to connector "CN507" on the small circuit board connected to the front panel by a white ribbon cable as you do so. Take care not to scratch the paint when replacing all 11 screws.

10. Fit the coaxial socket to the free end of the miniature coax.

11. Check the results. Reconnect the rig and turn it on. Confirm that it receives properly. Try transmitting briefly to check that the RF output level is normal.

12. Connect an external receiver using a coax patch lead between the new socket and the antenna socket on the receiver - NOTE: be especially careful if using a transceiver as the external receiver that the second rig cannot transmit. Preferably, disable the transmitter completely. *RF power above a few milliwatts accidentally applied to the external receiver connector will instantly blow the TS850's RX input circuitry as there is no protection in circuit*!!!

Well, that's it. Mod complete. Now all you have to do is figure out how to make use of two simultaneous receiver signals without getting totally confused! By the way, although the external receiver's antenna is automatically disconnected when the TS850 transmits, there will still be plenty of RF in the vicinity - it is probably best to avoid tuning the external receiver to the TS850's transmit frequency, possibly even the same band, or to use an external band-pass filter in the receive line.

Best of luck in the contest OM!

73 de Gary, G4IFB

A HINGED MAST-TO-BOOM BRACKET FOR LARGE BEAMS.

Neville Cheadle G3NUG

I faced the problem of raising a Telex TH11 and a M2 40M4L 4-element 40M. beam to the tops of my two Versatowers. The TH11 has a 24 foot 2 inch OD boom and 37 foot longest element. The 40M4L has a 42 foot 3 inch OD boom and 4 46 foot elements. Each of the Versatower masts is of the heavy duty five section tilt-over variety and each of the beams is best assembled on the mast because of its weight. However, having a dislike for heights and ladders, I wanted to assemble both beams at ground level and to attach them to the masts with the masts lowered and fully tilted over. The simple but extremely strong hinged mast-to-boom bracket described below did the trick.

The hinged mast-to-boom bracket consists of two 5/16 inch thick plates each 7 inches square. These plates are hinged together with a one inch diameter, 8 inch long pin that passes through three heavy hugs on each plate rather like an oversized door hinge. Split pins prevent the hinge pin slipping out and there is a spring loaded catch to keep the plates together when the mast is raised. (A long rope is attached to this catch so that it can be released when the antenna is to be lowered). All the materials are stainless steel.

The two plates in the bracket open to exactly 90 degrees, further opening being prevented by a lug. They close so that they are exactly parallel and further closure is prevented by another lug. One plate is drilled to accept the boom bracket "U" bolts and the other is drilled to accept the stub mast bracket "U" bolts.

So how does the hinged mast-to-boom bracket work and how are the antennas assembled?

1. The Versatower mast is lowered and luffed so that it is exactly horizontal as measured by a spirit level.
2. The stub mast is rotated so that the rotator indicator is set at 90 degrees to the angle at which the mast is pointing when lowered i.e. if the mast points SW (225 degrees) when lowered, the rotator indicator is set to NW (315 degrees).
3. The hinged mast-to-boom bracket is attached to the stub mast and is clamped fully opened i.e. at 90 degrees.
4. The antenna boom is then attached to the hinged mast-to-boom bracket and care is taken to ensure that this too is horizontal. The director end of the boom will be pointing NW (315 degrees) in the above example.
5. The elements are then attached to the boom and each element is again set to be exactly horizontal. At this stage, the mast, the boom and the elements are all in a horizontal plane just above ground level. Having fitted the usual paraphernalia and feed line the antenna is now ready for raising.
6. As the mast is raised the antenna pivots on the hinged mast-to-boom bracket. The plates that were set at 90 degrees for assembly close together and become parallel as the mast reaches vertical.
7. When the mast is vertical the spring loaded catch clamps the two plates together.

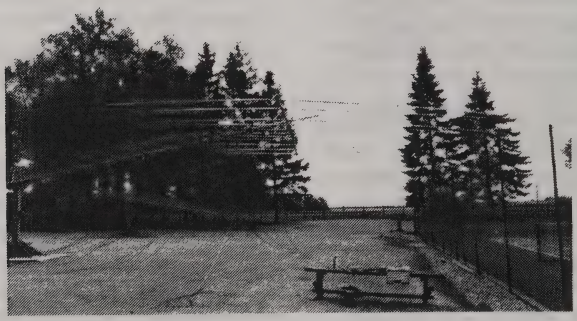
Each of the brackets was made for me by a local engineering company. They have worked like a dream. Antenna assembly and maintenance is very straight forward and can all be carried out single handed and with both feet on the ground. The secret of course is to ensure that:

1. The hinged mast-to-boom bracket opens to 90 degrees and no more and closes so that the two plates are parallel.
2. The rotator is set at 90 degrees to the direction that the mast is pointing when lowered.
3. The bracket is clamped open to 90 degrees while assembly is taking place.
4. The mast, boom and elements are set exactly horizontal when the antenna is being built.

If these conditions are met the antenna will be horizontal and pointing in the correct direction when raised.

1. TH11 -- Close up of hinged mast-to-boom bracket.

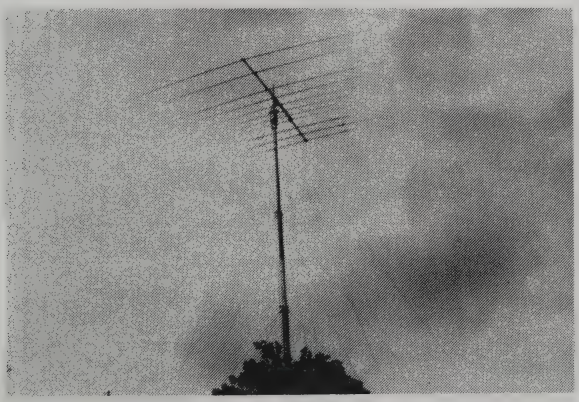
2. TH11 -- Assembly complete, -- mast, boom and all elements horizontal.



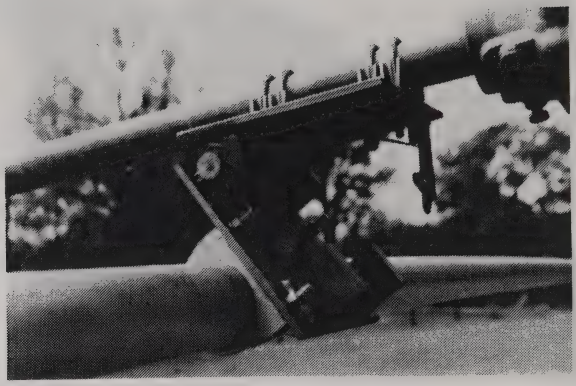
3. TH11-- Up she goes!

4. TH11 --Half way!

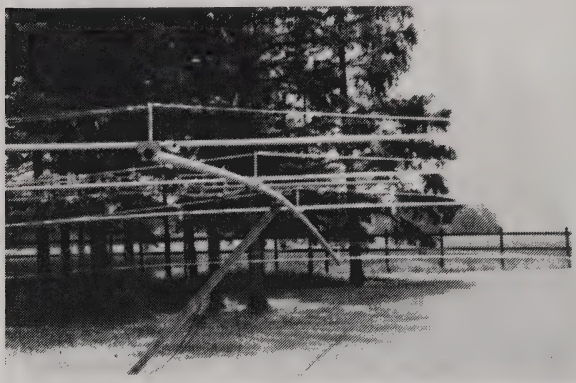
5. TH11 -- Almost there!



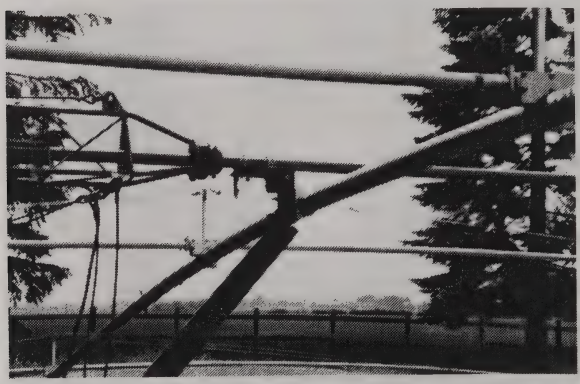
6. TH11 -- At full height.



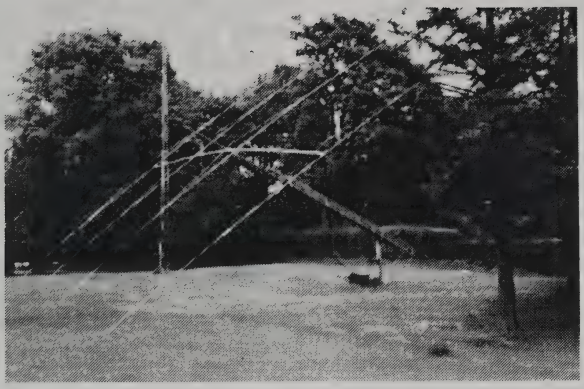
7. 40M4L --Close up of hinged mast-to-boom bracket.



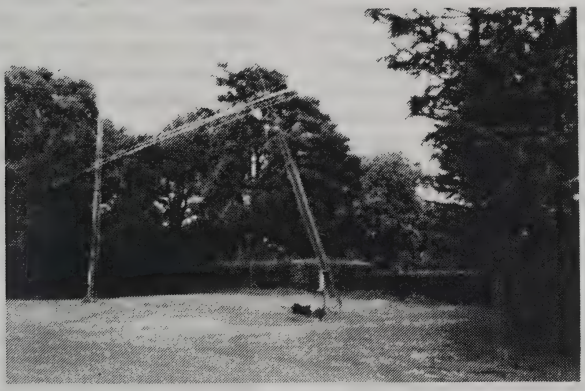
8. 40M4L -- Assembly complete -- Everything horizontal.



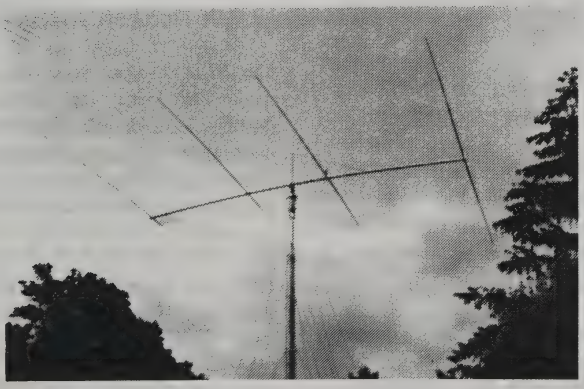
9. 40M4L -- Another view of the bracket.



10.40M4L --Up she goes!



11.40M4L --Nearly there!



12.40M4L -- Ready for action.

PRATAS - DXCC STATUS

From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT, December 22, 1995

To all radio amateurs.

ARRL DXAC and Awards Committee Agree Pratas Island goes on ARRL DXCC Countries List

The ARRL DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) has voted 12 to 4, and the Awards Committee, has voted unanimously to add Pratas Island, BV9P, for contacts made January 1, 1994 and after. This is based on DXCC Rules Section II, Point 2(a) (Separation by Water). Pratas Island, located in the South China Sea, is administered by Taiwan.

QSL cards will be received by the DXCC Desk starting April 1, 1996. Cards received before that date will be returned without action. *Ed: Pratas will therefore not count towards CDXC Honor Roll Chaser's Table until that date.*

Because of QSLing irregularities, it will be necessary for anyone who has a picture card from the January or March 1994 operation to obtain a replacement card from QSL manager KU9C. The picture cards are not acceptable for DXCC credit.

BV9P QSL STATUS

Steve Wheatley, KU9C

Well, the ARRL announcement has created a flurry of inquiries about the status of BV9P QSL cards. I hope this helps to answer the many inquiries and give you an up-to-date status report!

1. QSL cards mailed to either the Callbook address (POB 5953, Parsippany NJ 07054 or to the address listed with the DXpedition announcement (12 Netherton Terrace, Morristown NJ 07960) are likely in my hands. I'm not aware of any delivery issues. Chances are that, if you mailed it, I've got it!

2. The QSL card artwork is about to go to the printer. It has provision in the artwork to "work" with any of the three BV9P operations. Approximately 20,000 cards are due to be printed.

3. Once the cards are in my hands, I'm planning to post all direct responses received to date within 2 weeks. There are a few QSL requests that included other QSL cards for DX stations that I manage, but I've not received logs to date. Unless the logs come in, I'll hold the cards until the logs are received.

4. I'll update the reflector when the cards begin to find their way to the mailbox.

5. I currently have logs for the 2nd and 3rd BV9P operation (March 1994 and May/June 1995). I should have the first operation momentarily. Therefore, I will be in a position to confirm each of the operations per the ARRL announcement.

Steve Wheatley KU9C 24 Dec. 1995

SOUTH CHINA SEA DX TEAM ACTIVITY REPORT

UK PacketCluster Network

The SCSDX team is an alliance of Nokia employees living and working along the shores of the South China Sea. While not working on the telecommunications projects in the region, they make DX and promote amateur radio within several interesting DX locations.

1995 will be remembered as an especially good year, since their activities may result in three new countries into the DXCC program: North Korea, P5 (already approved); Pratas, BV9 (*Ed: Recently approved*) and Scarborough Reef, BS7 (still

pending). In the case of the BV9P and BS7H projects, they have worked closely with the IARU societies in the two parent countries, while on the P5/OH2AM and recent Myanmar, XZ1A projects, they worked closely with the respective governments.

XZ1A was the culmination of a three-year effort to establish Myanmar back to the ranks of amateur radio. The station XZ1A is now permanently set up in Yangon, and more activity is expected over the next several months. And the first two Myanmar nationals are expected to be licensed shortly.

A lot of speculation has centered around this breakthrough, with many comments relating to the XY0RR operation still credited to many in the DXCC program. It is now proved by the Myanmar Government that the stamps presented in Romeo's passport were fake, and Romeo had not entered Myanmar. Speculation about the validity of the presented XY0RR operating permit is now irrelevant, since his operation did not take place in Myanmar. Also, Romeo's "P5" QTH was discovered and documented in Russia, and this evidence is now at ARRL.

To remove the potential reaction of the DX community, XZ1A will be activated as much as possible for the purpose of providing genuine Myanmar QSOs for those who hold XY0RR in their records.

Please QSL XZ1A via Kan Mizoguchi, JA1BK.

In the CQ WW CW Contest, SCSDX members were again with:

OH0XX operating from Venezuela
OH6DO operating from Guyana, 8R1K
OH2BH operating from the Philippines, DX9C

Negotiations for final timing of P51BH/P51XX operations are well under way and a detailed announcement is expected momentarily.

Martti OH2BH/XZ1A

CDXC SWL NEWS

Bob Treacher BRS32525

Following my suggestion in the last CDXC Newsletter about starting a column for the SWL, I am sorry to say that no other SWLs have offered any news. Perhaps there will be something to say after the upcoming LF DX season when 7, 3.5 and 1.8MHz should all offer something of interest to listeners.

Instead, I will update the situation following my October SWL Challenge which took place at the same time as the SSB leg of the CQWW Contest. With the deadline for posting logs behind us, there may be only a few more surface mail logs still to arrive. Nevertheless, 90 logs had already been received. A detailed study has yet to be started, but there were a sizeable number of logs from both G and F - largely due to the most publicity. Among the logs were first time entries from America, Canary Islands, Romania and the Czech Republic, and it was good to receive a number of logs from ZS and one from CX. The disappointment was that no logs had been received from JA, VK or ZL despite publicity. Never mind!, slowly but surely the Challenge is reaching different parts of the globe. Perhaps 1996 will see 100 entrants.

The standard of logs is very good with a number of computer generated entries. Detailed checking had just begun (early December). It seems clear that there will be a different winner this year. That will be good for the event. Many entrants found 30+ DXCC countries on 1.8MHz this year, but almost all entrants struggled on 28MHz - except for those in Italy and Southern Spain. The demise of 28MHz was largely the reason why the 1994 highest score, of almost 1m points, remained intact.

Once the checking is complete, the results booklet will be printed. It is hoped to have this available in February.

Any SWL news for the next CDXC Newsletter should be sent to arrive no later than 31st January 1996.

DXCC LISTING UK STATIONS

Fred Handscombe, G4BWP

These are single band, mode, etc. DXCC listings for UK stations, taken from recent issues of QST.

RTTY

G0ARF	281
G4BWP	225
G0ATX	221
G4GIR	161
G5LP	150
G3XTT	146
G3SWO	115
GW0ANA	104
G4GED	103

For Non-Honor Roll DXCC Awards.

Satellite

G1RST	114
GW1MNC	109
G7AZP	106
G6WZR	105
GW8TIX	103

160m

G3XTT	189
G3TJW	153
G4BWP	151
GM3ITN	139
G4GIR	122
G3MXJ	118
G3NKC	116
G3LNS	110
G3KMA	107
GM3YOR	109
G3SDL	103

80m

G3TJW	320
G4BWP	273
G3XTT	273
G4GIR	254
GM3YOR	135
G5LP	128
G0MFO	117
GM3WIL	107
G3JYP	102
G3UAS	101

40m

G3TJW	330
G4BWP	315
G3XTT	314
GM3ITN	313
G4GIR	296
G5LP	209
GM3YOR	191
GM4KHE	172
G0MFO	160
GU3MBS	135
G4XRV	118
G4DXW	115
G4SSH	113
GM3YTS	113
G4IJW	110
G4GEE	107
G3JYP	102
G3UAS	101

10m

G3TJW	326
G3XTT	320
G3KMA	317
G4BWP	317
G4GIR	306
G3SNN	292
G4IJW	275
G4YRR	261
G4JCC	254
G4DXW	250
G0MFO	219
G4OJH	204
GU3MBS	181
G4GEE	178
G4WVX	175
GM3YOR	175
G4IPR	164
G3PJT	160
G4FDX	153

GW0ANA	138
G3YBT	135
G4SSH	129
G4XTA	114
GW0MAW	112
GM3WIL	110
G5LP	110
G4CBZ	109
G3UAS	109
GM0LVI	106
G4UXL	103
G0KYN	102
G4NAQ	101
G3JYP	101
G3LLX	100

6m

G3WOS	140
G0JHC	129
G4JCC	122
G3IBI	116
G3COJ	114
G3TJW	110
G4IFX	108
G3KOX	107
GI0OTC	104
G3JVL	104
G3ZYY	104
G3OIL	103
G7BXS	103
G4UPS	102
GJ4ICD	102
G3BJD	102
G4AHN	101
G4CCZ	101
GD3AHV	101
G3RFS	100
G4MKF	100
G6HCV	100
G3ZSS	100

MOST WANTED COUNTRIES

UK PacketCluster Network

Excerpts from the actual lists of Chod Harris, VP2ML.

North Korea does not appear in this lists because it was added to the DXCC Countries List after the deadline of this poll. Otherwise it would be, of course, the number one most wanted country.

MOST WANTED COUNTRIES 1995 (worldwide)

No.	Pfx	DXCC-Country	%
1	A5	Bhutan	65.5
2	VU4	Andaman Isl.	63.4
3	VK0	Heard Isl.	60.8
4	7O	Yemen	55.5
5	5A	Libya	55.0
6	VK0	Macquarie	48.7
7	FR/T	Tromelin	47.6
8	VU7	Laccadive	47.3
9	SV/A	Mount Athos	46.7
10	XZ	Myanmar	45.8
11	3Y	Bouvet	42.4
12	E3	Eritrea	40.3
13	FR/G.	Glorioso Isl	40.3
14	ZL8	Kermadec Isl.	40.0
15	3V	Tunisia	39.1
16	ZL9	Campbell Isl.	39.1
17	FT/Z	Amsterdam Isl	38.6
18	3B6	Agalega Isl.	37.0
19	XW	Laos	34.9
20	FR/J	Juande Nova	34.5
21	EP	Iran	34.3
22	ZS8	Marion Isl.	34.1
23	FT7W.	Crozet Isl	33.7
24	TT	Chad	32.8
25	3C0	Annobon Isl.	32.4
26	HK0	Malpelo Isl.	31.2
27	FT/X	Kerguelen	31.1
28	1S	Spratly Isl.	30.0
29	VK9C2	Cocos-Keeling	9.8
30	8Q	Maldives	28.2
31	YA	Afghanistan	28.2

32	VP8S	Sth. Sandwich	28.1
33	VK9X	Christmas Isl	28.0
34	1A0	SMOM	27.5
35	3W	Vietnam	26.9
36	VK9W.	Willis Isl	26.6
37	XU	Cambodia	26.6
38	ST0	South Sudan	26.5
39	9N	Nepal	26.4
40	A6	UAE	26.1
41	PY0S	Peter & Paul	25.7
42	YK	Syria	25.7
43	YI	Iraq	25.6
44	9U	Burundi	25.2
45	S2	Bangladesh	24.5
46	3B9	Rodriquez Isl	24.3
47	KH5K	Kingman Reef	22.8
48	TN	Congo	22.8
49	3A	Monaco	22.3
50	ZD9	Tristanda Cun	21.7
51	ZC4	UK Sov. Bases	21.6
52	TY	Benin	21.5
53	5R	Madagascar	21.1
54	3C	Equat. Guinea	21.0
55	ST	Sudan	20.7
56	VK9M	Mellish Reef	20.5
57	ET	Ethiopia	20.2
58	D6	Comoros Isl.	20.1
59	S0	Western Sahara	19.9
60	JD1	Min.Torishima	9.3
61	PY0T	Trinidade	19.1
62	VP8G	South Georgia	19.1
63	T5	Somalia	19.0
64	KH4	Midway Isl	18.6
65	CE0X	San Felix	18.5
66	A9	Bahrain	18.5
67	JX	Jan Mayen	18.5
68	KH5	Palmyra Isl.	18.4
69	3D2	Conway Reef	18.1
70	4J1	M-V Isl.	17.6
71	T33	Banaba	17.1
72	VP8O	South Orkney	17.0
73	KC6	Palau	16.3
74	CY	Sable Isl.	16.1
75	T31	Central Kiribati	16.1
76	KH1	Baker & Howland	15.6
77	XX9	Macao	15.4
78	KH7K.	KureIsl	15.2
79	OJ0	Market Reef	15.1
80	A7	Qatar	15.0
81	CE0	Juan Fernandez	15.0
82	XT	Burkina Faso	15.0
83	YV0	Aves Isl.	15.0
84	TI9	Cocos Isl.	14.4
85	5X	Uganda	14.0
86	5V	Togo	13.6
87	FO/X	Clipperton Isl	13.3
88	KH9	Wake Isl.	13.2
89	TJ	Cameroon	13.2
90	3Y1	Peter1 Isl.	13.1
91	SU	Egypt	12.7
92	C2	Nauru	12.2
93	3X	Guinea	11.9
94	ZK3	Tokelau Isl.	11.9
95	J2	Djibouti	11.8
96	J5	Guinea-Bissau	11.7
97	9X	Rwanda	11.5
98	5T	Mauritania	10.9
99	CY9	St. Paul Isl.	8.6
100	ZK1	North Cook Isl.	7.5

MOST WANTED COUNTRIES 1995 (Europe)

No.	Pfx	DXCC-Country	%
1	VK0	Heard Isl.	70.3
2	VK0	Macquarie Isl.	64.9
3	ZL8	Kermadec Isl.	64.9
4	A5	Bhutan	62.2
5	ZL9	Campbell Isl.	48.6
6	FT/Z	Amsterdam Isl.	48.6
7	VU4	Andaman	43.2
8	3B6	Agalega Isl.	43.2
9	KH5K	Kingman Reef	40.5
10	KH4	Midway	40.5
11	3Y	Bouvet	37.8
12	VK9W	Willis Isl.	37.8
13	KH5	Palmyra Isl.	37.8
14	T31	Central Kiribati	37.8
15	FT/W	Crozet Isl.	35.1
16	KH1	Baker & Howland	32.4
17	KH7K	Kure Isl.	32.4
18	3Y1	Peter 1 Isl.	32.4
19	7O	Yemen	29.7

20	ZS8	Marion Isl.	27.0
21	CY	Sable Isl.	27.0
22	3C0	Annobon Isl.	24.3
23	HK0	Malpelo Isl.	24.3
24	VK9M	Mellish Reef	24.3
25	TI9	Cocos Isl.	24.3
26	KH9	Wake Isl.	24.3
27	5A	Libya	21.6
28	FR/T	Tromelin	21.6
29	VU7	Laccadive Isl.	21.6
30	XZ	Myanmar	21.6
31	E3	Eritrea	21.6
32	FR/J	Juan de Nova	21.6
33	CE0X	San Felix	21.6
34	FO/X	Clipperton Isl.	21.6
35	FR/G	Glorioso Isl.	18.9
36	XW	Laos	18.9
37	VP8S	South Sandwich	18.9
38	PY0S	Peter & Paul	18.9
39	VP8G	South Georgia	18.9
40	3D2	Conway Reef	18.9
41	T33	Banaba	18.9
42	CE0Z	Juan Fernandez	18.9
43	C2	Nauru	18.9
44	ZK3	Tokelau Isl.	18.9
45	FT/X	Kerguelen	16.2
46	3B9	Rodriguez Isl.	16.2
47	KC6	Palau	16.2

Message posted by EI6FR, 27 November 1995.

BACK FROM 3V8BB

UK PacketCluster Network

After 8 unforgettable days at the club station 3V8BB the small RRDXA crew consisting of DJ7IK, DL8OBC and DL2OBF is back in DL. Besides the gigantic pile-ups, we enjoyed the great hospitality and friendship from the students and the staff of the Institut Superieur de la Jeunesse in Bir-el-Bey near Tunis, where 3V8BB is located. Mohamed Salhi (main op of the station) and the volunteer teacher Osamu Ikeuchi, JI1HUC are trying to establish the possibilities for more licenses in 3V! At the moment there are about 30 students of the Institut taking part in their ham-radio classes.

Antennas/equipment : Icom IC-726 and IC-736, dipoles for 160/80/40m, 3el tribander for 20/15/10m, 6el monobander for 15m.

CQ-WW DX CW Contest: Nearly 5000 contacts with a claimed score of about 7.9 million points as a multi/single station. A few hours after the start of the contest the IC-736 failed, so that we had to finish the effort without a separate rig for multiplier-spotting.

Before/after CQWW: 2500 more contacts between 160 and 10m. *No operation took place on the WARC bands or on 6m, because the use of those bands is not yet allowed in 3V!* There was almost no propagation on 10m for the whole week.

QSL: The cards will be printed within the next few weeks. After we get them from the printer we'll be working on the direct QSLs first and then send a card for every other contact we made automatically via the bureau! If You still want to send a card direct, please do so via DL2OBF. Despite his university examinations DL2OBF promised to have all the QSL work finished by the end of March 1996! *Please remember: DL2OBF can only manage QSL-cards for 3V8BB contacts between November 22nd and November 29th 1995*

The crew members would like to thank DL1SEB and DL1BDF for their help in getting this operation started. Also thanks to all the operators who worked us during our stay for all their patience and good operating-style. But most of all a big big "Thank You!!!!!" to Mohamed, Osamu, Khamel, Fhauzi, Assia, Sinda and all the other friends from the Institut Superieur de la Jeunesse in Bir-el-Bey, Tunisia!!!

Vy 73 de Hein, DL2OBF, December 2nd 1995.

BY1QH, DECEMBER 1995

Bob Farkaly, K9RHY

Our December 1995 Asia tour included Hong Kong, Tokyo, Macao and Beijing, with the highlight being an opportunity to visit and operate from BY1QH. My first QSO with BY1QH (operator Yuan Bo) was in 1984 and I have had many enjoyable QSOs since then. This was my first opportunity to visit and operate from the station. Since BY1QH is the Tsing Hua University club station, the operators change frequently. The equipment, the antennas and the location stay the same. Tsing Hua University (the Chinese name is Qing Hua - hence the QH suffix) is the most prominent engineering university in China. With almost 20,000 students, the campus is quite busy.

Although I made fewer than 1,000 contacts from BY1QH, the experience will stay with me for a long time.

Beijing, particularly in December, is not a hot tourist stop. Business people involved in joint ventures with the Chinese government represented virtually all of the Westerners we encountered. Flying from Hong Kong to Beijing is an experience. We booked a flight on Dragon Air since they code share with United. We weren't sure what to expect, but were very pleasantly surprised. Dragon Air is co-operated by Cathay Airlines, flies a fleet of new Airbus 320s, and has service that rivals Singapore Airlines. The other option from Hong Kong is China Air, a domestic airline.

Beijing is three air hours due north of Hong Kong, but visiting Hong Kong does little to prepare you for the change. The temperature was much colder at 5°C (41°F) against 22°C (72°F), the sun set earlier (about 4:30 PM versus 6:00 in December), but there are much more profound differences. Since our flight originated in Hong Kong, we arrived at the domestic terminal. Now, if you have visited Beijing, and arrived at the international terminal, let me assure you there are few similarities. If Indiana Jones landed at the Beijing domestic terminal today in his 1930s DC-3, he would feel right at home. Arrival and departure schedules are hand written on a white board. And why not? Although Beijing is a city of 13 million, there were only five flights posted. The terminal is dark, with most of the lights (bare neon tubes) disconnected. The colour scheme is an institutional pastel green. There are unhappy-looking soldiers in ill-fitting green uniforms everywhere. The soldiers may appear unhappy at first glance, but if you smile at them they beam back at you. We were given a stack of paperwork to fill out on the plane in anticipation of arrival (customs forms, medical forms, arrival/departure forms, etc.). With the exception of the arrival/departure card, none of the paperwork was collected, looked at, or asked for when we arrived or when we left.

The first impression of Beijing at night is one of darkness. Even at the airport, there are virtually no lights. Not a single flight took off or landed for the hour it took us to retrieve our luggage, go through immigration and customs (a wave) and get a cab to the hotel, even though we were there at the rush hour between 5:45 and 6:45 PM. It is immediately obvious that Beijing is not a prosperous city. With the exception of the biggest hotels, there are virtually no lights. No street lights, no lights on commercial buildings and very little light from the many high rise apartment buildings.

Particularly evident in the early morning is a thick, coal smoke haze. 80% of the heat in Beijing and 60% of the cooking is done with coal or charcoal. The coal arrives every afternoon in mile after mile of bumper-to-bumper, smoky trucks on the main road from the north. The results are obvious. As an aside, we learned that the "mayor" of Beijing banned all cooking in the city for a

BY1QH, DECEMBER 1995

Bob Farkaly, K9RHY

Our December 1995 Asia tour included Hong Kong, Tokyo, Macao and Beijing, with the highlight being an opportunity to visit and operate from BY1QH. My first QSO with BY1QH (operator Yuan Bo) was in 1984 and I have had many enjoyable QSOs since then. This was my first opportunity to visit and operate from the station. Since BY1QH is the Tsing Hua University club station, the operators change frequently. The equipment, the antennas and the location stay the same. Tsing Hua University (the Chinese name is Qing Hua - hence the QH suffix) is the most prominent engineering university in China. With almost 20,000 students, the campus is quite busy.

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CDXC DINNER

Saturday 2nd. MARCH 1996, 7.00PM for 7:30PM
Dress: Jacket and Tie

Venue: WATERLOO HOTEL, CROWTHORNE, BERKSHIRE

A delightful hotel set in rural Berkshire, midway between the M4 and the M3. The dining room has been reserved for us for the evening, and a separate bar will be supplied within the dining room. This will hold 65 people, so lets fill it up this year. There is ample parking space, and for those of you who wish to stay the night the room cost will be just £45.00. Please book your accommodation direct to the hotel. The cost of the dinner will be £18.00 per person. The menu is as follows:

Starter: Carrot and Coriander Soup

Main Course: Roast Sirloin of Beef with red wine sauce
Seasonal vegetables and potatoes

Dessert: Banoffie pie (its gorgeous)

Coffee or Tea

A Vegetarian Menu can be provided on the night if required.

Plèase book early. A deposit of £10.00 person is required and please send your booking form back to me:

-

Please reserve.....places for me at the CDXC dinner on Saturday 2nd March 1996. I am enclosing a deposit of £10.00/or full amount of £18.00 per person.
I will/will not require a vegetarian menu.
Please return to Dave Mann G0HXN
106, South Meadow
Crowthorne
Berks RG45 7HP

Please book your accommodation directly to:
THE WATERLOO HOTEL telephone 01344 777711
or Fax 01344 778913. Reference CDXC.

One of the attractions of the CDXC dinner has always been the after dinner presentation. This year is no exception we are pleased to announce that Vincent Denecker G0LMX has agreed take us into the world of high tech and give us an insight into the Dxpedition to XR0Y earlier this year. An item not to be missed.

Maps and directions to the venue will be distributed to you on return of your booking form. Don't forget book early or you may be disappointed.

week before the visit of the Olympic Selection Committee to make the air look less polluted. Lots of grumbling over instant noodles (Ugh!), but the air was clear.

Ham radio has come a long way in China. From 1949 to 1958, there was no ham radio at all in China. A Bulgarian CW contest team activated the first post-war Chinese station on November 3, 1958 - BY1PK. This station was limited to contacting Eastern European Communist-block countries on CW. Notably, JA1ZZ was once copied as JT1ZZ and given a signal report. When the call was corrected, the QSO was immediately terminated! No QSL, either. During the Cultural Revolution, which started in 1966, all ham radio activity was again terminated. During the 1970s, as China entered an era of reform, the door to ham operation re-opened a crack. As a result, BY1PK went back on the air in March, 1982. Today, there are 108 club stations in China. The first private stations were licensed in 1992, and today there are approximately 1,000 class 3 license holders (BG call signs) who could theoretically put a station on the air. In fact, 50% of all ham activity in China is from Beijing and there are very few individual stations. The country is just emerging from a subsistence-level economy for most Chinese and there are few resources available for hamming. BY1PK operates the only 2 metre repeater in China. During the evening (if you understand Mandarin dialect) you can hear a half dozen BG stations discussing their most recent evening meal.

By the way, there are 16 different and distinct varieties of Chinese cooking. And there are 65 officially recognised "minority" groups. Our eating experiences were fantastic, including a Peking Duck feast ($11 for three people) and a traditional Chinese banquet for six people at a total cost of $9. Unless you're particularly adventuresome, pass on the squid and the sea cucumber. Everything else was great. If you go to a restaurant unescorted, be prepared to guide your waiter around the restaurant pointing at other diner's meals to indicate what you would like. Virtually no one in Beijing speaks a word of English. When taking a cab, have someone in the hotel write your destination down in Chinese characters. Be sure you have a card with your hotel's name and address so you can tell the cab driver how to get you back. If you're not as adventurous, stay at the Sheraton Great Wall or the Shangri La. Both are comfortable for Americans, but you pay the price. We stayed at the Holiday Inn Downtown. It was comfortable and affordable - breakfast included.

Our personal tour guide was Gray, one of the operators at BY1QH. It was an incredible experience touring Beijing with a native ham. Unforgettable! Gray is a 5th year engineering student, specialising in fibre optics. His English is perfect, although he has never travelled outside China. He should have a great future. Indeed, the other BY1QH ops are all completely fluent in English. Sean represents the University in English language competitions and was anxious to fine tune his language skills with Americans. Mike, Harry and Alma are also fluent in English. Mike is a big basketball fan and especially a fan of Michael Jordan.

The station at BY1QH is on the fourth floor (walk up, of course) of a dormitory building on the university campus. The shack looks like it could use a good scrubbing, but, hey, this is a college dorm! Three of the operators of BY1QH (Gray, Harry and Mike) share the room adjacent to the shack. The other operators, Sean (BG1LUV/BZ1LUV - President of the University Ham Club) and Alma (YL) have different accommodations. There is one more YL member of the club that I didn't have a chance to meet. The rig is an FT-767GX and a GLA-1000 or Dentron amplifier. Both amps were out of commission when I arrived. I carried new

tubes for the GLA-1000 in my carry-on baggage, but the new tubes weren't enough to fix the amp's problems. The Dentron is a basket case. Antennas include a 4-element triband Yagi on the roof (although the 10 foot supporting tower leans over because of a past bout it lost with the wind), a quad for 10 and 15, and dipoles for 40, 80 and 160. I also carried nuts, bolts and tools to repair the tower and rotator. Non-metric hardware is impossible to find in Beijing. The noise level is terrific, always at S7 or better on all bands. Only the big guns get through. US West coast is best early morning and evening on 40 meters. The rest of the US is difficult. JA and Russians are on all bands, when they are open. Both 20 and 40 were productive.

We had plenty of opportunity to see the sights (Great Wall, Forbidden City, Summer Palaces, Ming Tombs, etc.) and experience the Chinese people and how they live. We shopped in the Chinese markets and the "malls" (actually department stores). The best outdoor shopping is near the US embassy. Prices at tourist shops are 2 -3 times higher than at the markets for the same products. Most prices are negotiable, even if you don't speak a word of Chinese. Take along some paper and a pen because written numbers are enough to do a deal.

The BY1QH ops asked me to pass along the following hints: Don't mail them packages. Anything you might send is subject to high duties which they simply can't afford. The only way to take in gear, tubes, etc. is via personal visits. The duty on the amp tubes I carried in would have been equivalent to a year's salary for an average Chinese. Also, don't send green stamps or use fancy postage stamps. All mail addressed to BY1QH passes through a University administrative office before it gets to the club. Anything of value (green stamps included) is removed. Fancy stamps are cut off envelopes. IRCs, however, make the trip OK as the administrators don't see any value to them. I carried back dozens of direct QSL cards in their SAEs (even the stamps on SASEs are removed!) and posted them upon my return to Denver.

If I didn't work you from BY1QH, I wish I had. The XYL kept commenting about the glazed look on my face as I twiddled the key and hollered into the microphone.

73, Bob, K9RHY

Copyright c 1995 Robert Farkaly

HAM RADIO IN SOMALIA

Ed: This is an extract from a much longer script by Sam Voron, VK2BVS who is Australian Director and Assistant to the World Director of the International Amateur Radio Network (IARN).

The world of the city of Mogadishu and the peace in the North East region of Somalia are like two different places. North East Somalia avoided the famine by maintaining its own security to prevent civil war spilling over into its region.

Somalis wear the USA flag on their tee shirts without a second thought in the North East. The North East welcomes all foreigners. The bad experiences of Mogadishu never occurred in the N.E. region, so all foreigners a re given a red carpet welcome.

History

1993 VK2BVS pays his way to Somalia, arriving with a donated amateur and broadcast station. *Somalia International Amateur Radio Club* (SIARC) and *Radio Free Somalia* (RFS) are established. Somali volunteers are trained, examined, and licensed by Sam under the authority of the regional representatives.

1994 Sam and Abdi return to Somalia with the help of *Rotary* and the Australian Government. They bring equipment to upgrade the coverage of the radio station *Radio Free*

Somalia for all to use for humanitarian activities.

1995 VK2BVS pays his way to Somalia on his third visit in three years, taking donated studio and field programme production equipment and a transmitter donated by 15 members of Australia's Somali Melbourne community through Abdikurim's co-ordination.

Present

Six million live in Somalia, and six million are outside. Amateur Radio, known as *HAM* (Helping All Mankind) Radio continues to bring Somalia and the world together in a time when no national government exists.

Amateur Radio and the HAM spirit only exists within the Somali people, its community and its leaders because of foreign assistance, training and equipment donation. The activities of the Somali ham volunteers have joined with foreign aid to make possible the first ever broadcast station in North East Somalia, the first free radio open to all the people of Somalia to use, (not just the government as before), and the existence of amateur radio and the vital role it plays.

Future

This will be determined by the knowledge of the people gained during their past and present. *You* can help build the knowledge of the present by visiting Somalia or by telling your non ham radio friends, tourists, humanitarian aid groups, business friends that they are welcome in Somalia and the hams of Somalia are ready to greet them.

The North East Region

Location: The North Eastern half of Somalia is 700km long by 300km wide commencing from the border town of Galkayo, located 750km North of Mogadishu.

Transport: A safe and secure 700km highway in excellent condition runs from Galkayo to the deep sea port of Busasso. Twice weekly flights at $US520 return from Dubai, UAE, to Busasso, Somalia via a three hour transit in the Republic of Djibouti. Twice daily, there is an $8 bus which runs from Busasso to Galkayo. Charter *Khat* planes at $600 return will take you from Nairobi's Wilson airfield to Galkayo airport.

Costs: Hotel in Galkayo $4 per day or $2 per day in a shared room. Hotel in Busasso would be $20 per day for the most expensive. Canned soft drinks and bottled pure water at 50c are available everywhere. Food of all types is less than $1 everywhere.

European Union (EU): The EU toured the N.E. region, visiting Radio Free Somalia and the SIARC. Mr. Sigurd Illings, EU special envoy to Somalia with the head of the Royal Netherlands embassy declared the N.E. region safe for foreign NGOs, and signified the European Commission's preparedness to fund project agreed upon between NGOs and the local N.E. authorities.

As a radio amateur, you have knowledge about Somalia no one knows. The media only cover political and military issues, but you have access to the daily life story of people living where no national government exists. You can use your knowledge to help the people of Somalia by letting you ham and non ham friends know that they can:

- Go to the N.E. region of Somalia for a holiday with a difference. Somali hams will welcome both hams and non-hams. Somalia welcomes all foreigners.
- Visit the local orphanage and join their volunteer staff.
- Visit the short wave broadcast

station and volunteer to do a foreign language programme, and be a DJ.

- Operate the SIARC ham station, and study for the Somalia Amateur Radio Licence. Get their own 6O0 call sign, or use the club 6O0Z callsign under supervision of a licensed radio amateur.

Ed: The Somali licence allows amateur radio stations to run 10kW. Sounds like a great place for CQWW!. The licence covers all bands from VLF (0-8kHz!), LF (100-200kHz), MF (1.6-2 MHz), HF (standard HF bands inc. WARC), VHF/UHF (Standard VHF/UHF bands), and ALL FREQUENCIES ABOVE 1GHz on a non interference basis! Any mode of transmission may be used. Licences remain current indefinitely unless specifically cancelled by the Somalia Government.

GROOTE EYLANDT

UK PacketCluster Network

From the 22nd December 1995 to the 6th of January 1996, VK8NSB/P will activate Groote Eylandt as OC-141.

This will be done on all Frequencies, Voice and CW as follows: CW: 3.535 , 21.135 , and 28.125. SSB: 3.618 , 21.260 , and 28.460. Stuart will be on CW 1 day and SSB the next.

Callsign is VK8NSB/P, name is Stuart

QSL is Direct via PO BOX 205, KARAMA, DARWIN, NT, 0812. or via VK8HA, (Direct only with return Postage and $2US or 2 IRCs. If not Direct, cards will be sent via the Bureau according to Log Book entry. Also operating Split Frequency on TX 3.618, RX 3.785/95.

Good Luck to all for the OC-141 DXpedition activation.. This is the first, I believe, activation of the Island on CW mode, so please be patient

Stuart arrives on Groote Island at 0500z 22/12/95 and departs 0630z on 06/1/9 5

Best Regards from Paul VK2NPH.

IOTA QSLs

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

The IOTA Committee has received a number of complaints from island chasers that they have been unable to obtain QSL cards for some operations.

Sometimes these are from operators who are having difficulty in getting their own contact confirmed where they know that many others have already received their cards. There is little that we can do in these cases.

However where it becomes apparent that an operation has taken place and that a substantial number of cards has not been distributed I will write, as Vice-Chairman of the IOTA Programme, to the operator concerned. On behalf of the IOTA community I will offer help and ask for clarification of the position.

Bob Williams G4LVQ has kindly agreed to co-ordinate the collection of data for this exercise. So, if you have been waiting for a direct IOTA QSL for over six months or for a bureau QSL for over one year please write to Bob at 25 Upper Carr Lane, Calverley, Pudsey, W.Yorks, LS28 5PL. Let him have the callsigns of the stations concerned, the QSO date and QSL route used. Do not send Bob your QSLs! Neither Bob nor I will act as QSL managers.

Once Bob has been notified that at least 10 stations are waiting for a particular QSL he will let me know and I will then write to the station concerned.

SILENT KEY - FOR SALE

The following is a list of equipment of a recent silent key.

Except where stated the equipment was in use up until October. The transceivers and linears will be demonstrated working, all other items are sold "as seen", and are priced accordingly. All items will be collected by arrangement (probably from near Newmarket). The smaller items may be posted. All payments to be made in cash

except by arrangement.

Contact Fred, G4BWP by telephone 01638 552080 6.00 to 10.00 p.m.

Item	£
FT757GX plus FP700HD psu	550
TL922 HF Linear	850
Loudenboomer (Line output valve) HF Linear	150
AOR 1500E Hand held scanner	200
Tono 7000 RTTY Terminal & CW reader (with monitor)	150
DSP 9+ DSP audio filter with recent firmware upgrade	150
Daiwa CN2002a 2 kW Automatically tuning ATU (coax line)	200
VS300A B&W ATU	150
Howes balanced ATU from a kit (looks complete)	25
MFJ 971 Portable ATU	50
Welz SWR meter	25
Versatower 60 ft standard duty. Complete and in VGC. Winches, ground post & ropes only 6 months old	350
A3S 20/15/10, 3 ele Tribander (6 months old)	235
Kit to add 40 or 30 m to A3S (new, boxed)	90
A3WS + D103 17/12 3 ele duobander plus 30m dipole extension	250
EF-140 Force 12 40 m loaded dipole (6 months old)	120
EF-180 Force 12 80 m loaded dipole (6 months old) (NB. 56 foot span)	300
Self supporting tower sections, each approximately 3 m, 6 off. The lot	75
CDE Ham-M rotator with bottom brackets + control box (believed working & possibly recently overhauled) hence	100
Motor unit only for KR600, condition unknown	20
Kit for quad antenna (spider, bamboo spreaders, wire)	30
GDO	15
GDO valved Heathkit	10
Unfinished project "Simple Spectrum Analyser" (RadComm) as seen	50
HP 331A Distortion Analyser	20
BC221 Heterodyne Wavemeter	25
Heathkit VTVM	15
Level RC Oscillator	15
Wayne Kerr RF Bridge type B 601 with Z601 adapter	50

CW LIST OPERATION

UK PacketCluster Network

One of the big joys of working DX on the low end of 40m has been smashed this morning! At 0739, G0IVZ spotted ZK1DI on 7002 and as there hadn't been very much DX about earlier, I listened to see how strong the ZK1DI station was coming through. What did I hear on the frequency? A list operation being run by an EA station. To give the EA station credit he was only passing the calls of the European station to ZK1DI and not assisting with signal reports as has been reported on SSB list operations. I detest list operations, which is one of the reasons I only operate CW. When I have heard list operations on CW they have usually been on the HF bands which is one of the reasons I love 40m. Now that dream of working DX the 'proper' way, i.e. un-assisted, has been shattered. Perhaps I will wake up in a minute and it will have been a dream! I pondered on whether I should send this message as it is not my style to get involved in the debates and controversial issues on here, but (as they say on the Internet) I am QRX for the 'flames' which will undoubtedly follow! At least my weekend can only improve from now on!

PS While I have been typing this message, the EA station has been taking another list which included TI4CF! Why TI4CF needs to work through a list when he has one of the strongest signals on 40m beats me and contradicts the argument that lists help the ' little pistols' get through as opposed to the 'big guns'. 'Flame' away and 73 de Chris.

Message posted by G4BUE, 18 November 1995.

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter depends for its success on the availability of input from members. Input may take the form of news items, letters, articles on HF operating, DXpedition reports, contesting, equipment reviews etc. In general, most items of HF content are welcome.

I am happy to receive articles in any form. However, it is obviously much less work for me if I don't have to type the article up, and, for that reason prefer articles to be submitted in electronic form, preferably produced using a modern word processor. The Newsletter is produced using Word For Windows 6.0, which can accept most current WP file formats, but ***please always also include on disk a plain text version of the file, and also supply hard copy***, just in case something goes wrong with the translation, as it often does with tabular information, or the disk can't be read, which sometimes happens either because it gets corrupted in the post, or the alignment of the disk drive in the originating machine is wildly out - it has been known to happen! Floppy disks will be returned with the Newsletter.

For those using Word 6 for the production of articles, I can supply a template which will enable the article to be produced directly in the Newsletter format - please get in touch if you'd like a copy.

Small items may be submitted via PacketCluster, but my link to the system is sometimes a little tenuous, so this is not always a reliable method for longer articles. Alternatively use email - my address is *alanj@pires.co.uk*.

If you don't have access to a PC, then, of course, I would still like to receive articles, and these should preferably be typewritten, although clear hand-written items are always acceptable. These may be Faxed to me at +44 *(0)1767 677 913* or mailed to the address on the front cover.

The deadline for submitting articles is the seventh of the month prior to the month of publication, although I can take late news and small items up to about two weeks later. Please do try to let me have submissions by the deadline, as production of the Newsletter is quite time consuming, and has to be fitted in around other things such as work, family, and other leisure activities, and even some occasional operating!

Please keep the input coming!

73 Alan Jubb, G3PMR, Editor, CDXC Newsletter

RULES FOR CDXC HONOR ROLL CHASER'S TABLE

Below are the rules for the *CDXC Honor Roll Chaser's Table*. The table will be published next in the *March* Newsletter. Entries should be sent to G3PMR in the format published in the September Newsletter.

Rules

- Open to all CDXC members in all countries
- Also open to UK non members
- Also open to those who have already achieved HR status
- Qualifying number: 250 current DXCC countries confirmed in one or more of the categories.
- Categories are CW, SSB and Mixed, with both current and current plus deleted confirmed scores being shown.
- Position in the table will be based on the *current* confirmed score in the *mixed* category. For single mode entries, the mixed score will be assumed to be equal to the mode score.
- UK non members will be shown one time only. They will be encouraged to join CDXC, and will be deleted from future tables if they remain a non-member.
- Entries to be sent to the Newsletter Editor by the usual publication deadline.
- The table will be published in the July, November and March issues of the Newsletter.

Bren, G4DYO has kindly offered to provide a certificate to those CDXC members achieving a score of 270+ who have not yet achieved Honor Roll status. (And a very FB certificate it is, too).

If you qualify, and haven't reached HR status yet, do please let me have your score. If you are already in the table, please let me have an update to your score, even if it hasn't changed. Those not updating within a year of their last update will be deleted from the table.

This months news from Vine

We're pleased to announce that we are now a factory appointed outlet for

Telex *HyGain* Antennas and Rotators

If it's anything from a TH2 to a TH11 we have *got it.*

We can also *rotate it* with the famous time-proven HyGain rotator range

.....and of course.....

we are pleased to offer the *very best* HF antennas from
Force 12, GemQuad, KLM and M2

.....the super EME VHF/UHF *world beaters* from Eagle Antenna, M2 and KLM

Plus - those little bits and pieces that make operation of a Contest / DX station that bit easier -

Stack match from *Dunestar*. Stack and match any two ants 160-10. Shack (12vDC) and outside units. Just £169.95

***Top Ten Devices* automatic antenna switches. Just connect to your PC parallel port / Band Data port of your ICOM /Yaesu transceiver and automatically switch up to six antennas from CT, Log EQF, or NA contest and logging programs. Both units - an incredible £ 179.95.**

Bandpass filters from *Dunestar*, single band and automatic switching (with Top Ten Devices shack unit).

Ring us to *talk antennas*. Evenings and weekends are fine ! We can *ALWAYS* provide a solution.

Put your money where it counts !

Into a VINE Antenna

Vine Antenna Products (GW3YDX)
The Vine, Llandrinio, Powys SY22 6SH
Tel - 01691 831111 - Fax 01691 831386
Email - ron@gw3ydx.demon.co.uk

MARTIN LYNCH & Son

THE AMATEUR RADIO EXCHANGE CENTRE

FAXBAK

0181 - 566 0 007

Martin Lynch New Year Specials

1996 is already here and Martin is trying to make room for new stocks.

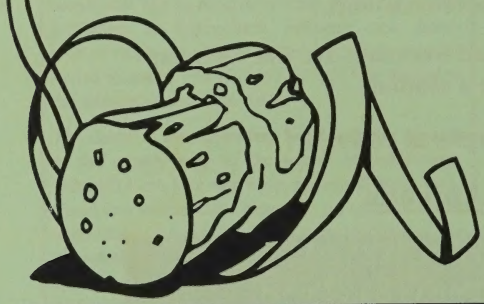
Take advantage of these special offers, saving hundreds of pounds across the range.

■ Yaesu FT2500M 50W 2M FM Transceiver	RRP £399	**ML £ 319**
■ Yaesu FT51R miniature dualband Handie	RRP £529	**ML £ 429**
■ Yaesu FT736R Dualband multimode base	RRP £1999	**ML £1499**
■ Yaesu FT990DC 100W HF base FREE FILTERS	RRP £2277	**ML £1699**
■ Yaesu FT990AC AC version of above.	RRP £2577	**ML £1949**
■ Yaesu FT1000 refurb, 15Mnth warranty + 18M FREE Finance	RRP £3999	**ML £2299**
■ Yaesu FT23R small heavy duty 2M handie	RRP £269	**ML £ 219**
■ Yaesu FT900AT Remote head 100W "mini" base HF	RRP £1599	**ML £1279**
■ Kenwood TS450SAT HF 100W with Auto ATU	RRP £1649	**ML £1195**
■ Kenwood TH79E Small compact dualband handie	RRP £479	**ML £ 429**
■ Kenwood TS850SAT refurb, with 15 months cover	RRP £1969	**ML £1295**
■ Icom IC2340 high power dual band 2/70 mobile	RRP £679	**ML £ 529**
■ Icom IC2350 high power latest version dualbander	RRP £649	**ML £ 549**
■ Icom IC736 100W HF+6M transceiver c/w PSU/ATU	RRP £1969	**ML £1649**
■ Alinco DR130 high power 2M 50W FM mobile	RRP £379	**ML £ 329**
■ Alinco DRM06 10W 6M FM transceiver - 2 ONLY	RRP £379	**ML £ 279**

All brand new and boxed and not "ex-demo", (except the FT1000's and TS850SAT's, these are fully refurbished, offered with FIFTEEN MONTHS parts and labour warranty). Stocks are very limited and offers are subject to availability. E&EO

Super LOW COST FINANCE is available on any of the above items.

Please call the SALES DESK for your own tailor-made quotation.



For further details, call the sales desk on 0181-566 1120, or use our new Faxbak service. We will be happy to send you information, arrange a "test drive" in the showroom and offer you part exchange and financial advice

140-142 NORTHFIELD AVENUE, EALING, LONDON W13 9SB

OPENING HOURS
MON-SAT
9.30 - 6.00
Late night Thursday by appointment

0181 - 566 1120

FAX: 0181 - 566 1207 **AFTER HOURS: 0973 339 339** **B.B.S.: 0181 - 566 0000**